ACTIVITIES OF REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH FISHERIES

by

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FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ROME, June 1993

PREPARATION OF THIS CIRCULAR

This Circular was prepared within the framework of the Regular Programme as part of on-going activities of the FAO International Institutions and Liaison Service (FIPL) aimed at providing information on recent activities of regional fishery bodies and other organizations or groupings concerned with fisheries. The document is an updating of the FAO Fisheries Circular No. 807: Activities of international organizations concerned with fisheries published in 1987.

Marashi, S.H.
Activities of regional fishery bodies and other international organizations concerned with fisheries.
FAO Fisheries Circular. No. 807, Rev.1. Rome, FAO. 1993. 57p.

ABSTRACT

The document reviews on a worldwide basis the recent activities of regional fishery bodies. The review covers bodies established both within and outside the framework of FAO. The information is presented by geographical areas (Atlantic Ocean and adjacent area, Indian Ocean and Indo-Pacific area, Pacific Ocean, Antarctic, inland waters). An annex indicates the membership, functions and geographical area of competence of each body. As the governing bodies of FAO have stressed the need for strengthening relations with economic organizations and other international groupings concerned with specific aspects of fisheries, this document also provides information on the relevant activities of some of these organizations.

D/V1280

FAO Fisheries Circular (FAO Fish.Circ.) is a vehicle for distribution of short or ephemeral notes, lists etc., including provisional versions of documents to be issued later in other series.

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INTRODUCTION

1. This document reviews the major activities of thirty-five marine and inland international fishery bodies established both within and outside the framework of FAO. This document is an updated version of Fisheries Circular 807: Activities of Regional Fishery Bodies and Other International Organizations Concerned with Fisheries published in 1987. The present document also includes information on new fishery organizations established under international conventions, some of which have not yet entered into force. For these new bodies, basic information on their establishment, objectives, functions and structures is given. Information on activities of selected intergovernmental regional organizations and bodies concerned with fisheries is also included in the document.

2. Two major issues i.e., the problem of large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and the reflagging of vessels fishing in the high seas, have been at the forefront of FAO activities in recent years. It may also be noted that in 1991, the FAO Conference adopted amendments to its Constitution to allow for the membership in FAO by regional economic integration organizations.

I. MARINE FISHERY BODIES
ATLANTIC OCEAN AND ADJACENT SEAS

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

3. The International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) held its Seventy-fifth Statutory Meeting in Santander, Spain, in October 1987 and its Seventy-sixth Statutory Meeting in Bergen, Norway, in October 1988.

4. At both meetings, the Council considered scientific papers and reports on a wide range of cooperative research activities in the fields of fisheries, marine environment, mariculture and oceanography being undertaken by scientists in its member countries under the Council's aegis. Reports of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM), giving information on the state of exploited resources in the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) areas, and advice on their conservation and management were prepared and submitted to those bodies, as well as to member governments and the European Economic Community (EEC) Commission.

5. The Sixth Dialogue Meeting on "Stability, Management Systems and Long-Term Objectives for Resource Utilization", co-sponsored by ICES and NEAFC was hosted by the EC Commission in Brussels, in October 1987. The Council organized a number of Symposia including "Marine Sciences of the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Regions" (Santander, Spain, September 1987), "Baltic Sea Fishery Resources" (Rostock, Germany, 29 February to 3 March 1988), and "The Early Life History of Fish" (Bergen, Finland, October 1988) as well as the meetings of sixty Working/Study Groups in relation to its work in 1987 and sixty-six meetings in 1988.

6. The Council held its Seventy-seventh Statutory Meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, in October 1989, its Seventy-eighth Statutory Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, in 1990 and its Seventy-ninth Statutory Meeting in La Rochelle, France, from 26 September to 4 October 1991.

7. As in previous meetings, the Council considered scientific papers and reports by its Committees, Mini-Symposia and Theme Sessions. The ACFM provided advice and information on the status of stocks and their management to NEAFC, NASCO, IBSFC, the EC Commission, and other ICES Member Countries.

8. The Seventh Dialogue Meeting, co-sponsored by ICES, NEAFC and the IBSFC, was held in London in November 1989. The main theme was "Biological, Economic, and Social Considerations in Determining the Objectives of Fisheries Management, Taking into Account the Management of Shared Stocks". The Eighth Dialogue Meeting co-sponsored by the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), IBSFC and the Commission of the EC was held in Gdynia, Poland, in September 1991. The topic was "How to Use the Sea: Management Interactions with Special Reference to the Baltic and its Fisheries".

9. During the period under review, the Council organized a number of Symposia including "The Ecology and Management Aspects of Extensive Mariculture" (Nantes, France, June 1989), "Multispecies Models Relevant to Management of Living Resources" (The Hague, Netherlands, October 1989), "The Effects of Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Species on Resources and Ecosystems" (Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, June 1990), "Shellfish Life Histories and Shell Fishery Models" (New Brunswick, Canada, June 1990), "Patchiness in the Baltic" (Aland Islands, Finland, June 1991), "Hydrobiological Variability in the ICES Area (Marieham, Finland, June 1991), "Fish and Crustacean Larviculture" (Ghent, Belgium, August 1991); "Measurement of Primary Production from the Molecular to the Global Scale" (La Rochelle, 1992), "Fish Behaviour in Relation to Fishing Operations" (Bergen, 1992), "Mass Rearing of Juvenile Fish" (Bergen, 1993), and "Cod and Climate Change" (Reykjavik, 1993). In addition, the Council organized the meetings of sixty-eight Working/Study Groups or Workshops in relation to its work in 1989, sixty-six in 1990 and seventy in 1991.

10. During 1991-1992, there was considerable discussion within ICES regarding the need to enhance the Council's interdisciplinary role. Among other things, there has been an emphasis on greater participation in ICES activities by national scientists from the environmental quality side. In 1992, the Council decided to rename and restructure its Advisory Committee on Marine Pollution (ACMP). The new Advisory Committee on the Marine Environment will be asked to address a wider range of problems than implied in its previous name. The Advisory Committee on Fishery Management will also be expected to give greater consideration to ecosystem and interdisciplinary questions than previously. Publications have also been an important part of the Council's programme. The following series are used to report the results of research and related information: ICES Journal of Marine Science, ICES Marine Science Symposia, ICES Cooperative Research Reports, ICES Fisheries Statistics, Techniques in Marine Environmental Sciences, ICES Identification Leaflets for Plankton, and ICES Identification Leaflets for Diseases and Parasites of Fish and Shellfish. The Council's Secretariat serves as the data centre for a number of important fisheries, oceanographic, and marine pollution data bases. Work in this area, particularly with regard to marine pollution, has increased in the last few years.

North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC)

11. The North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) held its Sixth and Seventh Annual Meetings in London in November 1987 and November 1988 respectively. At both meetings, the Commission received and discussed the Reports of the Advisory Committee

on Fishery Management (ACFM) of the International Council for Exploration of the Sea (ICES). In particular, the Commission studied the advice on blue whiting, Atlanto-Scandian herring stocks and oceanic redfish stocks. It asked ICES to provide the full range of scientific advice on the assessment of fish stocks in the NEAFC area as well as specific information on oceanic redfish, blue whiting, squid and Atlanto-Scandian herring stocks. At its Seventh Meeting, the Commission reviewed the report of the Ad hoc Working Group on Current Management Strategies by Contracting Parties for Blue Whiting and Atlanto-Scandian Herring and proposed a total allowable catch of 700,000 tons for blue whiting for 1989.

12. The Commission held its Eighth Annual Meeting in London from 29 November to 1 December 1989 and its Ninth Annual Meeting in London in November 1990. At both meetings, the Commission discussed the Reports of the ACFM and asked ICES to provide scientific advice on the assessment of fish stocks in the NEAFC area. At its Eighth Meeting, the Commission established an Ad hoc Working Party on Management of the Northern Blue Whiting to meet in Torshaven, Faro Islands, in June 1990 in order to review the latest information from ICES, examine the consequences of establishing a long-term overall total allowable catch, and consider and make proposals on the principle of allocating an overall total allowable catch between international waters and the waters within the fisheries jurisdiction of Contracting Parties.

13. At its Ninth Meeting, the Commission received and discussed the Report of the Ad hoc Working Party and its recommendations on establishing a long-term total allowable catch and the allocation of catch. No decisions were taken but the Commission decided to consider the matter at its future meetings.

14. The Commission held its Tenth Annual Meeting in London in November 1991. As in previous meetings, it discussed the Report of the ACFM, in particular, the advice on blue whiting, Norwegian spawning herring (formerly designated Atlanto-Scandian herring) and oceanic redfish. The Commission asked ICES for a full range of scientific advice on the assessment of fish stocks in the NEAFC area. It also requested ICES to provide additional information on (i) the stock identity, migration, spawning areas and state of exploitation of oceanic redfish, (ii) the present distribution of Norwegian spring spawning herring, and (iii) the development of the total stock biomass and spawning stock biomass over a three year period (1994-1996) of blue whiting.

15. The Commission recommended that the total catch of blue whiting in the northern area should not exceed 650,000 tons in each of the next three years. It repeated its appeal to Norway to continue to adhere to ICES scientific advice in relation to the management of the Norwegian spring spawning herring and to continue to take all necessary steps to contribute to the recovery of the stock.

16. The Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Commission was held in London in November 1992.

International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC)

17. The International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) held its Thirteenth and Fourteenth Sessions in Warsaw, Poland, in September 1987 and September 1988.

18. The Commission received and reviewed the Reports of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) on the state of the stocks of cod, herring, sprat, and salmon. At its Thirteenth Session, the Commission set the total allowable catches (TACs) for herring and sprat at 489,700 and 117,200 tons for 1988. It also set a TAC for salmon without reaching agreement on its allocation. At its Fourteenth Session, the TACs for herring and sprat for 1989 were set at 489,700 and 142,000 tons. The TAC for salmon was 3,550 tons and for the first time since 1978 the Commission succeeded in establishing and allocating a TAC for cod at 220,000 tons.

19. The Commission held its Fifteenth Session in Cracow, Poland, in September 1989 and its Sixteenth Session in Warsaw, Poland, in September 1990. At both Sessions, the Commission received the reports of the ACFM and as in previous years the actual state and expected future changes in the spawning stock biomass of the stocks of herring, sprat, cod and salmon were discussed. At its Fifteenth Session, the Commission established the TACs for the entire Baltic of 482,700 tons of herring, 150,000 tons for sprat and 210,000 tons for cod for 1990. It did not establish any TAC for Baltic salmon. At its Sixteenth Session the TACs set by the Commission for 1991 were 486,000 tons for herring, 163,000 tons for sprat, 171,000 tons for cod, and 3,350 tons of salmon.

20. The Commission held its Seventeenth Session in Warsaw, Poland, in September 1991. It discussed the Report of the ACFM on the actual state and expected future changes in the spawning stock biomass of herring, sprat, cod and salmon and established TACs for some of these species for 1992. These were 486,000 tons for herring, 201,000 for sprat, 3,550 tons for salmon and 430 tons for the Gulf of Finland. Furthermore, the allocation among the Fishery Zones of the Contracting Parties was also established.

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)

21. The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) held its Fourth Annual Meeting in Edinburgh, U.K., in June 1987 and its Fifth Annual Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, in June 1988.

22. At its Fourth Annual Meeting, the Council reviewed the analysis of catch statistics and asked the Parties to provide available catch statistics for salmon stocks directly to the Council. It also considered the existing tagging programmes and decided that a review be undertaken of the arrangements for gathering tagging information. The Council established a tag return incentive scheme to encourage the return of external tags for a trial period of four years. A format to harmonize and simplify the reporting procedures to make the Convention effective was also adopted.

23. At its Fifth Annual Meeting, the Council reviewed a progress report on the information provided by the parties on laws, regulations and programmes relating to the conservation, restoration, enhancement and national management of salmon stocks. At this meeting, the Council considered the potential impacts of salmon farming on wild stocks. It noted that the industry had expanded from a production of 10 tons in 1970 to a production in excess of 65,000 tons in 1987 and an estimated production of up to 250,000 tons by 1990. In the light of the potentially serious nature of some of the threats to the wild stocks, the Council decided that (i) an international meeting should be convened in 1989 to assemble the information available on the genetic threats to wild stocks, (ii) the Council to consider the

possibility of developing an internationally agreed code of practice or recommendations to minimize the impacts of aquaculture on wild stocks, (iii) the Secretary to prepare a review of the mechanisms, costs and benefits of establishing gene banks for threatened stocks, and (iv) the Secretary to consult with ICES on the information available on environmental threats posed to wild salmon stocks by salmonoid aquaculture.

24. The North American Commission of NASCO held its Fourth and Fifth Annual Meetings in 1987 and 1988. It met twice in 1987 in Miami and Edinburgh and twice in 1988 in Montreal and Reykjavik. The Commission received reports from ICES on the impact of acid rain on Atlantic salmon as well as the report of the Bilateral Scientific Working Group on Salmonoid Introductions and Transfers, established in 1986. It reviewed the salmon fisheries in Canada and the USA and discussed proposed Canadian and U.S. management measures as they relate to the mandate of the Commission.

25. The North-East Atlantic Commission of NASCO held its Fourth Annual Meeting in Edinburgh in 1987 and its Fifth Annual Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland in 1988. At both meetings, the Commission reviewed the fishery in the Faroes zone and in 1988 received the Report of the Operation of the Quota as required by the regulatory measure established in 1987 for a three-year trial period. The interception of the salmon stocks of the USSR in Norwegian waters was discussed and the Commission noted that Norway had indicated its intention to ban driftnetting for salmon in 1989.

26. The West Greenland Commission of NASCO held its Fourth Annual Meeting in Edinburgh in 1987 and its Fifth Annual Meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, in 1988. At both meetings, the Commission reviewed the state of fishery in the west Greenland. The results of the regulatory measures limiting the total allowable catch, adopted at its Third Meeting for 1986 and 1987 were examined. Further emergency regulatory measures limiting the total allowable catch in eastern Greenland for 1988, 1989 and 1990 were approved.

27. The Council held its Sixth Annual Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, in June 1989, its Seventh in Helsinki, Finland, in June 1990 and its Eighth in Edinburgh, Scotland, in June 1991.

28. Since 1990, NASCO has been concerned about vessels fishing for salmon in international waters north of the Faroe Islands. These vessels have been reflagged to countries which are not Parties to the Convention. In 1990 a Resolution was adopted by the Council of NASCO calling for diplomatic action by the Organization and by its Contracting Parties to ensure that such fisheries were ended. Since further vessels were observed fishing for salmon in international waters, in 1992 the Council adopted a Protocol extending the prohibition on fishing for salmon beyond areas of fisheries jurisdiction contained in the Convention to those Parties which sign the Protocol.

Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

29. The Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) held its Ninth Annual Meeting in Nova Scotia, Canada, in September 1987 and its Tenth Annual Meeting in Ontario, Canada, in September 1988.

30. At both meetings, the Scientific Council gave advice on matters requested by the Organization's Fisheries Commission on Resources in the Regulatory Area and on special

questions affecting those resources. Special Sessions of the Scientific Council discussed the Deep Water Resources of the North Atlantic in 1987 and Interaction Between Environment and Fish Stocks in the North Atlantic in 1988. It adopted several recommendations which were aimed at improving future research activities on resources in the Convention Area as well as the on-going policy regarding its publications. At both meetings, agreements were reached on conservation and management measures for 1988 and 1989 regarding total allowable catches (TACs) and allocations for certain stocks which were either entirely outside the 200-mile fishing zones or occur both within the zones and in the Regulatory Area. The Fisheries Commission agreed at both meetings to continue the moratorium for 1988 and 1989 on cod fishing in certain areas. It also held a special meeting in Brussels, Belgium, in 1988 to continue its work on developing a new International Enforcement Scheme.

31. The Organization held its Eleventh Annual Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, in September 1989 and its Twelfth Annual Meeting in Halifax, Canada, in September 1990. The sessions of the Scientific Council, the General Council and the Fisheries Commission were also held during the Annual Meetings.

32. As in the past, the Scientific Council presented scientific advice on the management of stocks and advised on the questions which had been referred to it by the Fisheries Commission. At its Special Session in 1989, the Scientific Council discussed the "Changes in Biomass, Production and Species Composition of the Fish Populations in the Northwest Atlantic Over the Last 30 Years, and Their Possible Causes". In 1990, the Special Session discussed "Management under Uncertainties". At both meetings agreements were reached by the Fisheries Commission on conservation and management measures for 1990 and 1991 regarding TACs and allocations for certain stocks. The Commission also decided to extend its moratorium on cod fishing for 1990 and 1991. In 1990, the General Council of NAFO endorsed the U.N. Resolution 44/225 on large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing and noted that this kind of fishing was not practised by NAFO members in the conservation area.

33. The Thirteenth and Fourteenth Annual Meetings of NAFO were held in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, in September 1991 and in September 1992. The sessions of the Constituent bodies of the Organization were also held during these meetings. At both meetings, the Scientific Council provided the scientific assessment and recommendations in relation to the management of the fishing stocks in the Convention Area. In 1991, the Council organized a Symposium on "Changes in Abundance and Biology of Cod Stocks and Their Possible Causes".

34. The Fisheries Commission's decisions which were adopted by the Parties included the TACs and allocations in 1992 and 1993 for fishing stocks which are entirely in the Regulatory Area or associated with the stocks within the 200-mile fishing zones. In 1991, the Fisheries Commission adopted new proposals for international measures of control and enforcement in the Regulatory Area and further measures were proposed in 1992 which will be incorporated in the NAFO Conservation and Enforcement Measures in accordance with the Provision of the NAFO Convention. In 1992 Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania became Parties to the NAFO Convention.

North Atlantic Marine Mammals Commission (NAMMCO)

35. The North Atlantic Marine Mammals Commission (NAMMCO) was established by an Agreement on Cooperation in Research, Conservation and Management of Marine

Mammals in the North Atlantic, signed by the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway at Nuuk, Greenland on 9 April 1992. The agreement entered into force on 7 July 1992 and the Commission held its first meeting in Thorshavn, Faroe Islands in September 1992.

36. The area covered by the Agreement is the North Atlantic and its membership is open to other parties with the consent of the existing members. The species for which the Commission is responsible are marine mammals.

37. The objective of the Commission is to contribute through regional consultation and cooperation, the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. The Commission consists of a Council, Management Committees, a Scientific Committee and a Secretariat.

38. The functions of the Council include: (i) to provide a forum for the study, analysis and exchange of information among the Parties on matters concerning marine mammals in the North Atlantic; (ii) to establish appropriate Management Committees and coordinate their activities; (iii) to establish guidelines and objectives for the work of the Management Committees; (iv) to establish working arrangements with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and other appropriate organizations; and (v) to coordinate requests for scientific advice.

39. Decisions of the Council are taken by the unanimous vote of those members present and casting an affirmative vote. The Management Committees are to propose to their members measures for conservation and management; and to make recommendations to the Council concerning scientific research. Decisions of Management Committees are also taken by the unanimous vote of those members present and casting an affirmative vote. The Second Meeting of NAMMCO was held in Tromso, Norway, in January 1993.

General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM)

40. The General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM) held its Nineteenth Session in Livorno, Italy, from 27 February to 3 March 1989.

41. The Council discussed its intersessional activities which had concentrated on fishery statistics, resource assessments, management measures, and the utilization of small pelagic species. On fisheries statistics, the Secretariat pointed out that no member country had yet responded to a catch and effort enquiry introduced by FAO in 1988. The Council noted that response to the questionnaire concerning fleet size and structure was patchy. Among problems encountered in establishing a reliable database in this field was the difficulty in obtaining data on artisanal fleets. It referred to the role of social and economic information in the management of Mediterranean fisheries and observed that delay in addressing economic aspects of fishery management was due to the lack of adequate data on this subject and recommended that in future, more attention be given to economic and social considerations in fishery management.

42. The Council reviewed the report of the Seventh Session of the Committee on Resource Management and discussed the recent trends in Mediterranean fisheries. It noted the widespread interest within the GFCM area in the long-term trends in the abundance and distribution of fish and shellfish resources, as well as short-term variations, thought to be due mainly to analogous trends and changes in the environment of these resources. It stressed

the need to give due consideration to the activities within the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC)/FAO Programme on Ocean Science in Relation to Living Resources (OSLR). The Council requested the Secretariat to approach other organizations concerned with this subject to participate in a meeting on long-term trends and the interaction of fisheries with the environment in the GFCM area.

43. The Council examined the reports of the Technical Consultations held during the intersessional period. They included (i) Fifth Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Adriatic and Ionian Seas, (ii) Second Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Eastern Mediterranean, (iii) Second Technical Consultation on Red Coral in the Mediterranean, (iv) Fifth Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Divisions, (v) Ad hoc Working Group on Assessment of Pelagic Stocks in the Alboran Sea and Those Jointly Fished by Morocco and Algeria, (vii) Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Central Mediterranean, and (viii) Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Black Sea. The Council made a number of recommendations regarding the work carried out by the Technical Consultations and the Working Parties as well as making suggestions in relation to their future activities.

44. The Council considered the management measures on the basis of the report of Seventh Session of the Committee on Resource Management and of other previous GFCM actions including those on limitation of mesh size and regulation of effort. It made a number of recommendations concerning (i) closed seasons and areas, (ii) effort control and (iii) mesh size regulation.

45. The Council noted that the FAO Conference had decided that, in the future, the term "Council" should be used only to designate the Council of the Organization and that bodies established by agreements under Article XIV of the Constitution (such as GFCM) should be called "Commission" or "Committee". The Council agreed to change its name from "General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean" to "General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean". The agreed change of name will be decided by the Council at its Twentieth Session in 1993. It also noted that the name of its Committee on Resource Management was somewhat restrictive in that emphasis was put on the resource aspects, while new management techniques tend to involve other aspects as well and decided to give to the Committee the new name of Committee on Fisheries Management. The Council further agreed that its Working Party on Resource Appraisal and Fishery Statistics should be given the new name of Working Party on Fisheries Economics and Statistics with the new terms of reference. Finally, bearing in mind the importance of open-sea shellfish culture in association with artificial reefs and, in general, of all structures and technologies designed to boost coastal production, the Council decided that its Cooperative Programme of Research on Aquaculture should be now called "Working Party on Artificial Reefs and Mariculture" with new terms of reference.

46. The Eighth Session of the GFCM Committee on Fisheries Management was held in Rome, Italy, from 28 to 31 October 1991. The Committee reviewed the reports and recommendations of the Technical Consultations and Ad hoc Working Groups on Fisheries Management including the Working Party on Fisheries Economics and Statistics, Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Balearic and Gulf of Lions Statistical Division, and Technical Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Committee examined the findings of the GFCM/ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) Expert Consultation on Evaluation of Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in

the Mediterranean Area held in Bari, Italy, in June 1990 and recommended that collaboration and exchange of data and information between GFCM and ICCAT scientists should be encouraged. The Second Joint GFCM/ICCAT Expert Consultation on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean was held in Crete, Greece, in September 1992. The Committee also discussed fisheries management and noted that significant progress had been made in recent years by a number of member countries with the application of seasonal closure, closed areas, mesh size and other size regulations. The Committee considered the problems raised by the use of large drifting gillnets in the GFCM area and endorsed the U.N. General Assembly Resolution 44/225 on drifting gillnets.

Mixed Commission for Black Sea Fisheries

47. During the period under review, the Mixed Commission for Black Sea Fisheries has not been active.

48. In February 1993, a ministerial meeting of the countries bordering the Black Sea (Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine) was held in Odessa, Ukraine, and made a Ministerial Declaration on the Protection of the Black Sea. The Declaration adopted the following recommendations in respect of the natural resources of the Black Sea: (i) to encourage the development of comprehensive and coordinated plans for the restoration, conservation and management of living natural resources in the Black Sea, (ii) to take appropriate measures for the restoration and conservation of biodiversity in the Black Sea, and (iii) to establish and improve nature conservation areas in the coastal zone of each Coastal State before 1996.

49. At the GFCM Consultation on Stock Assessment in the Black Sea, held in Ankara, Turkey, from 15 to 20 February 1993, the need for a new Convention on the Black Sea Fisheries was raised by the Turkish delegation. The Consultation discussed the future provisions for harmonized management of Black Sea Fisheries and noted that no active fisheries management body has operated in the Black Sea, and that the Mixed Commission for the Black Sea Fisheries, with partial membership, has not been active in recent years. The Consultation recommended that there was an urgent need for a Black Sea fisheries body and was informed by the Russian delegation that a new text for the Black Sea Fishery Convention had been prepared by the former USSR and circulated to member countries of the Commission. The Consultation welcomed the statement by the delegation of Bulgaria that a meeting of the Mixed Commission on the Application of the Convention for the Black Sea Fishery will be held in Bulgaria in May 1993. Romania, Russian Federation, Ukraine and Georgia were invited and Turkey and FAO were also invited to attend the meeting as observers.

Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF)

50. The Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (CECAF) held its Eleventh Session in Douala, Cameroon, from 7-9 December 1988 and its Twelfth Session in Accra, Ghana, from 27 April to 1 May 1992.

51. At its Eleventh Session, the Committee reviewed the report of the Seventh Session of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources Within the Limits of National Jurisdiction (Tenerife, Spain, September 1988) which also included a report on a workshop on "Implications of the New Law of the Sea on Fisheries Management and Development in

the Area" organized in conjunction with the Sub-Committee's Session. The Committee noted that significant progress had been made by countries from the region in various fields including preparation of management plans, introduction or improvement to log-books, on-board observation schemes, revision of fishery laws, enforcement of regulation on mesh size and fishing areas, and development of national research institutions. The recommendations of the Session included limitation of fishing effort on cephalopod stocks in the northern CECAF zone; fixing of minimum mesh size for beach seines at 25 mm (stretched); and adoption of a new statistical grid.

52. The Committee examined the list of meetings and resource surveys prepared by the Working Party on Resources Evaluation and agreed with its recommendations of holding a Joint Working Group on Sardines, horse mackerels and mackerels of the northern CECAF area, a second Working Group to concern itself with hakes and deep-sea shrimps, and the third Working Group to deal with small pelagics or demersals of the Western Gulf of Guinea Statistical Division. The Committee also discussed the report of the Eighth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Development (Douala, Cameroon, December 1988) which had organized a Workshop on Financing of Fisheries Development. The Committee approved the recommendations of its Sub-Committee and welcomed the action being taken by FAO to develop training programmes in the fishery sector and project planning and requested FAO to organize a training workshop on fishery project identification and formulation within the region. It also noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the implementation of the Strategy and Programmes of Action approved by the 1984 FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development including a new FAO/UNDP regional programme entitled "Integrated Approach to Aquaculture Development in Africa" and the on-going activities of the INFOPECHE project GCP/RAF/201/NOR "Regional Fish Trade Information and Cooperative Service for Africa". The Committee approved a number of recommendations addressed to FAO and the Governments.

53. At its Twelfth Session, the Committee reviewed its intersessional activities and welcomed the support of the Governments of France and Spain in the project GCP/RAF/265/FRA "Technical Support for Fishery Development and Management in the Region". It discussed the report of the Sub-Committee on Management of Resources Within the Limits of National Jurisdiction and approved its recommendations including increase in mesh size of the trawls in Division 34.1.3 for the exploitation of cephalopods; forty percent reduction of fishing effort on mackerels and horse mackerels in the Northern CECAF zone; excess effort on demersal resources in the Western Gulf of Guinea to be transferred offshore; and increase in mesh size of trawls in the Central Gulf of Guinea for the exploitation of demersal resources.

54. The report of the Ninth Session of the Sub-Committee on Fishery Development (Accra, April 1992) was discussed by the Committee. It included a report on a Workshop on Sustainability of Artisanal Fisheries in the Region as well as the conclusions of the discussions by the Sub-Committee on (i) industrial fisheries development in the region, (ii) intra-regional fish trade, characteristics, problems and development prospects, and (iii) future technical assistance needs of countries, in the region. The recommendations of the Sub-Committee that (a) stock evaluation of small pelagic stocks that were the focus of artisanal fishing in many waters be intensified, and (b) attention be given to integrated coastal fisheries management within the context of integrated coastal area management, were endorsed by the Committee. It also expressed concern about the high degree of illegal fishing reported by

developing coastal States in the region and the adverse effects on the economies of the member countries concerned as well as on the correct evaluation of fish stocks.

55. The Committee also discussed the report of "The Government Consultation to Review the Structure, Functions and Responsibilities of the Subsidiary Bodies of the Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (Rome, April 1989). The Consultation had not reached a consensus on the questions submitted to it but there had been a strong trend in favour of a sub-regional structure of the subsidiary bodies of the CECAF. The Committee, on the basis of a strong consensus, decided to retain its existing general structure but agreed that it was essential to improve its overall efficiency and the quality of its technical work.

Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries

56. The Convention establishing a Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission was signed at the First Extraordinary Conference of Ministers in charge of fisheries from Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania and Senegal in Dakar, Senegal, on 29 March 1985. Guinea became a member of the Commission in 1987. It may be noted that the Convention has not yet entered into force.

57. During the period under review, the Commission has carried out a number of activities including (i) the establishment of a regional register of fishing vessels, (ii) a review of possibilities for sub-regional cooperation in surveillance and enforcement, (iii) the harmonization of research programmes, (iv) the training of observers on a sub-regional basis, and (v) the establishment of a sub-regional database for fisheries statistics.

58. At its Eighth Meeting held in Bissau in 1988, the Conference of Ministers instructed its Permanent Secretariat to pursue and increase its effort in the harmonization of conditions of access of foreign fishing vessels to waters under the Jurisdiction of the Member States of the Commission. Following this recommendation, various working groups of lawyers and administrators carried out substantial consultations in three specific areas. First a harmonized status for observers on board foreign fishing vessels was prepared and subsequently approved by the Conference of Ministers at its Ninth Session in Conakry, Guinea, in December 1989. Second, at the same meeting, the Conference approved uniform criteria for the marking of fishing vessels. Third, the Secretariat initiated action for the identification of conditions of access and in October 1989 a first Working Group of the Commission met in Praia, Cape Verde, and prepared a Draft Convention on the Determination of Conditions of Access to and Exploitation of Fisheries Resources off the Coast of the Sub-Regional Commission. This Draft Convention was also adopted by the Conference of Ministers at its Ninth Meeting in 1989. The Working Group met for the second time in March 1990, in Dakar, Senegal, to examine the ways by which the provisions of the Draft Convention should be implemented.

59. In 1992 the Working Group on Research and Conditions of Access to the Resources of the Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries met in Dakar, Senegal to discuss (i) programme of work for the second quarter of 1992, (ii) the joint research programme, (iii) projects submitted to the European Economic Community (EEC) for funding, and (iv) draft convention on the conditions of access and exploitation of resources of the sub-region. In December 1992, the Ministers in charge of fisheries of Guinea, Cape Verde and Senegal held an informal meeting in Dakar, Senegal, with a view to stimulate the activities of the Commission. The Ministers noted that some of the proposals that had been made by the Commission should be revived, improved and implemented and mandated the Officers

responsible for fisheries surveillance of Cape Verde, Guinea and Senegal to formulate preliminary proposals likely to attract support from the other member countries.

Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC)

60. The Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) held its Sixth Session from 27 to 31 July 1987 in Mexico, and its Seventh Session from 8 to 14 November 1990 in Kingstown, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. At both Sessions, the Commission reviewed the intersessional activities undertaken by FAO in response to its decisions and recommendations.

61. At its Sixth Session, it discussed the reports of the intersessional meetings including the report of the Third Session of the Lesser Antilles Committee; the report of the Fourth Session of WECAFC Working Party on Fishery Statistics; the report of the Expert Consultation on the Use of Microcomputers for Processing Fisheries Statistical and Biological Data; the report of the Fifth Session of the WECAFC Working Party on Assessment of Marine Fishery Resources; the report of the First Workshop on the Biological and Economic Modelling of the Shrimp Resources of the Guyana-Brazil Shelf; and the report on the Socio-Economic Aspects of Shrimp Exploitation in the WECAFC Region. The Commission approved the recommendations of its Working Parties and adopted the recommendations of the other technical meetings held in the intersessional period.

62. The Commission discussed the "Zoogeographical Categories Relevant to Fishery Management Areas and Stock Delineation in the WECAFC Region" and decided that this subject should be referred to the Working Party on Assessments of Marine Fishery Resources for elaboration and suggestions. It also reviewed the Institutional Support and Strategy for the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in the Region, based on three documents, i.e., Institutional Structure for Fisheries Development, Organizational Structures for the Development of Small-Scale Fisheries, and Technological Requirements and Strategies for Small-Scale Fishery Development. The Commission adopted a number of recommendations addressed to FAO and the Governments in relation to its work.

63. At its Seventh Session, the Commission considered the Progress Report presented by the Secretariat on the Implementation of the Strategy and the Programmes of Action of the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and recommended that the Programmes of Action should give clear emphasis on regional efforts to train artisanal fishermen in the different countries. As a follow-up to the recommendation of the First Session of the WECAFC Working Party on Fishery Economics and Planning (Grenada, May 1989) a Workshop on the Socio-Economic Implications of Fisheries Management in the WECAFC Region was held in conjunction with this Session in order to review the state of fisheries management and identify and discuss the social and economic implications of successes and failures of the management of economically important fisheries in the region.

64. The Commission reviewed the report of the Fourth Session of the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Lesser Antilles (Saint Vincent, 31 October to 7 November 1990). The report included the follow-up activities undertaken by FAO during the intersessional period; the benefits derived from the TCP (Technical Cooperation Programme) Projects and the TCDC (Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries) activities promoted by the Caribbean Technical Cooperation Network in Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture; a Workshop on Economic and Social Aspects of Small-Scale Fisheries in

the Caribbean Sub-Region, held in conjunction with the Committee's Fourth Session; report of the First Session of the Working Party on Fishery Economics and Planning; and the results of the TCP Project on Fishery Management Plans in the Lesser Antilles (TCP/RLA/6776). It also discussed the report of the Sixth Session of the Working Party on Assessment of Marine Fishery Resources and the report of the Second Workshop on the Biological and Economic Modelling of the Shrimp Resources of the Guyana-Brazil Shelf. The Progress in Defining Critical Habitats and Mapping Fisheries Areas, referred to the Working Party on Assessment of Marine Fishery Resources at its last Session, was reviewed by the Commission.

65. The Commission made a number of recommendations addressed to FAO and Governments in relation to its work. A Technical Consultation on Sustainable Fisheries Development in the WECAFC area is being organized by the Commission and will be held in Caracas, Venezuela, from 21 to 25 June 1993.

Regional Fisheries Advisory Commission for the Southwest Atlantic (CARPAS)

66. No Session of this Commission was held during the period under review.

Joint Technical Commission for the Argentina/Uruguay Maritime Front (CTMFM)

67. The Joint Technical Commission for the Argentina/Uruguay Maritime Front (CTMFM) has continued its activities on fisheries in the Common Zone through its Executive, Sub-Commissions and Technical Groups. Working groups are also created by the Commission in relation to the approved programmes of work. Once the Commission assigns subject matter priorities and the related working groups are set up, the research activities are implemented according to their specific requirements. The most important research activities of the Commission cover four main areas; (i) living resources, (ii) pollution prevention, (iii) legal matters, and (iv) cartography.

68. During the period under review, the Fishery Resources Research Surveys have continued. These are conducted by both national institutions utilizing research vessels from Uruguay and Argentina, in evaluating hake (Merluccius hubbsi) and its by-catch as well as joint seasonal surveys to evaluate coastal resources, in particular croaker and sea trout. These joint research efforts have provided a better knowledge of the resources and have established a fluid relationship among scientists of both countries.

69. The annual organization of Scientific Symposia and Meetings on Technology and Fishery Economics have continued since 1987. On Pollution Prevention, the Commission has coordinated its work with bi-national bodies in charge of the management of the Uruguay and Rio de la Plata rivers. The Commission has continued its efforts to establish catch quotas for each country in the Common Zone and has been very successful in developing a number of symposia and technical meetings, enlarging the original subject range from biology to fishery economics and technology. All the research work carried out by the Technical Commission is published annually in Frente Maritimo which is the Commission's publication.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna (ICCAT)

70. The International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) held its Tenth Regular Meeting in Azores, Portugal, in November 1987 and its Sixth Special Meeting in Madrid, Spain, in November 1988. During 1987 and 1988, the Commission recommended that regulatory measures for yellowfin, bigeye and bluefin tunas remain unchanged. The Commission organized a Working Group on Juvenile Multi-species Statistic in June 1987 which reviewed the historical catch statistics for the Gulf of Guinea surface fisheries. Two workshops on Swordfish were organized by ICCAT. The first, in Madrid, Spain, in October 1987, and the second in Madrid, Spain, in July 1988. The programme of Enhanced Research for Billfish continued throughout the 1987 and 1988.

71. The Commission held its Eleventh Regular Meeting in Madeira, Portugal, in November 1989 and its Seventh Special Meeting in Madrid, Spain, in November 1990. It reviewed the panels recommendations on stock conditions for all tuna species and recommended the size limits for yellowfin, bigeye and bluefin remain in force. In 1990, the Commission recommended regulatory measures for swordfish and endorsed the UN General Assembly Resolution 44/225 regarding large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas. In 1989, the Commission organized a number of meetings including the Final Meeting for the Yellowfin Year Program (Madrid, June 1989), Albacore Landing Data Preparatory Meeting (Taipei, Taiwan, Province of China, July 1988), and Albacore Workshop (Madrid, Spain, September 1989). In 1990, the meetings organized by ICCAT included General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM)/ICCAT Expert Consultation on Evaluation of Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean Area (Bari, Italy, June 1990), Albacore Workshop (Madrid, Spain, October 1990), and Swordfish Stock Assessment Session (Madrid, Spain, September 1990).

72. The Commission held its Twelfth Regular Meeting in Madrid, Spain, in November 1991. In addition, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries to amend the ICCAT Convention as concerns the calculation of the financial contributions of the Contracting Parties was also held in Madrid, Spain in June 1992. The Conference adopted a protocol referring to the modification of Article X of the Convention.

73. At its Twelfth Regular Meeting, the Commission adopted the recommendations for Enhanced Management of Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna and established a Special Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Management Review Committee. No other regulatory measures were recommended.

74. In 1991, ICCAT organized several meetings including a Working Group on Western Atlantic Tropical Tunas (Miami, Florida, April 1991), and a Swordfish Stock Assessment Session (New Brunswick, Canada, September 1991).

75. The Commission held its Eighth Special Meeting in Madrid, Spain, in November 1992. At this meeting, the Commission adopted a Resolution to Establish a Permanent Working Group for the Improvement of ICCAT Statistics and Conservation Measures.

76. In 1992, the recommendations on regulatory measures remained unchanged and no specific regulatory measures were recommended. The Commission decided to request the Contracting Parties to submit detailed national reports containing information on their respective statistical data collection systems, implementation of ICCAT management

measures, inspection and monitoring activities. It reviewed the Report of the Working Group to Develop Technical Details for the Implementation of the ICCAT Resolution on Catch by Non-Contracting Parties (Tokyo, May 1992) and adopted a recommendation concerning the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document Program. Under this programme, the Contracting Parties require that by 1 September 1993, all bluefin tuna, when imported into the territory of a Contracting Party or at the first entry into a regional economic organization, be accompanied by the ICCAT Bluefin Tuna Statistical Document. The Commission also adopted a Resolution Regarding the Reflagging of Vessels to Avoid Compliance with Internationally Agreed Conservation Measures for Living Marine Resources.

77. In 1992, the Commission organized a number of meetings including Working Group on Catches of Bluefin Tuna by Non-Contracting Parties (Tokyo, Japan, May 1992), Management Review Committee for West Atlantic Bluefin Tuna (Tokyo, Japan, May 1992), Data Preparatory Meeting on Tunas and Tuna-like Fishes in Southwestern Atlantic (Brazil, July 1992), Second ICCAT Billfish Workshop (Miami, USA, July 1992) and Second Joint GFCM/ICCAT Expert Consultation on Stocks of Large Pelagic Fishes in the Mediterranean (Crete, Greece, September 1992).

International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF)

78. The International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF) held its Ninth Regular Session in Madrid, Spain, from 30 November to 12 December 1987, its Eighth Special Meeting in Madrid, Spain, in December 1988 and its Tenth Regular Session in Palma in November-December 1989.

79. During this period, the productivity of the stocks of 18 species was studied and the information available for anchovy, cape hake, cape horse mackerel, pilchard and snoek proved to be sufficient for evaluating figures on the total allowable catch to be taken from each of these stocks in 1988 and 1989. No amendments were made to the existing regulations regarding the closed area and the minimum mesh sizes for the hake fishery and other trawl fisheries. The Commission also received the reports of the ICSEAF international inspectors and noted that there has been a substantial fall in the number of alleged infringements.

80. In 1987, the Commission reviewed the findings of the Ad hoc Working Group which had met in June 1987 to establish the relationship between fishing effort and national quotas and recommended that the group should continue its work.

81. The Commission held an Extraordinary Mid-Term Meeting in Madrid, Spain, in May 1990. The purpose of this meeting was to terminate the Convention. On 19 July 1990, a Conference of Plenipotentiaries adopted a Protocol for the Termination of the Convention. In accordance with the Protocol, the Convention shall terminate when all Contracting Parties have deposited an instrument of acceptance of the Protocol with the Director-General of FAO. So far Angola and Cuba have deposited their instruments of acceptance of the Protocol.

Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic

82. A Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean was held from 30 March to 1 April 1989 in Rabat, Morocco. The Conference unanimously adopted the Rabat Declaration which referred to the common will of all the States of the region to strengthen and develop their fisheries cooperation namely in the fields of assessment and conservation of fisheries resources as well as the promotion of marine scientific research; development of fisheries production and land infrastructure; marketing of fishing products; enhancement of vocational and technical training; solidarity with land locked and other geographically disadvantaged African States; and all other actions likely to contribute to the development of the fisheries sector in the region.

83. In May 1990 a follow-up Committee, established by the First Session of the Ministerial Conference, met in Rabat, Morocco to discuss follow-up actions including the initiation of the preparation of a fisheries convention. A draft Convention was reviewed at the meeting of experts organized by FAO in Rome from 27 to 30 May 1991 and the Regional Convention on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean was finally adopted by the Second Session of the Ministerial Conference in Dakar, Senegal on 5 July 1991.

84. The objectives of this Convention are: (a) to promote an active and organized cooperation in the area of fisheries management and development in the Region; (b) to take up the challenge of food self-sufficiency through the rational utilization of fishery resources within the context of an integrated approach that would embrace all the components of the fishing sector; (c) to stimulate the national economic sectors through the direct and secondary effects resulting from fishery resources exploitation, bearing in mind the importance of the fisheries sector in the economic, social and nutritional development process of the people of the Region; (d) to enhance, coordinate and harmonize their efforts and capabilities for the purpose of conserving, exploiting, upgrading and marketing fishery resources, considering in particular fish stocks occurring within the waters under the sovereignty or jurisdiction of more than one Party; and (e) to reinforce solidarity with African land-locked States and geographically disadvantaged States of the Region.

85. The institutional framework of the Convention comprises the Conference of Ministers, the Bureau and the Secretariat. The Conference of Ministers is the governing and decision-making body with respect to fisheries cooperation among the Parties. It determines the objectives and principles governing programmes and activities to be carried out under this Convention. It holds a regular session once every two years and a special session at the request of a majority of the Parties. The Bureau is the coordinating organ of the Conference of Ministers and the Secretariat is the executive organ.

86. The Convention will enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit with the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the seventh instrument of ratification, approval or accession. The Convention has not yet entered into force.

Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea (Comité régional des pêches du Golfe de Guinée (COREP)

87. In November 1983, the Conference of Ministers Responsible for the Fisheries of States Bordering the Gulf of Guinea met in Libreville, Gabon and established an Ad hoc Commission to elaborate on the establishment of a regional Fisheries Consultative Committee for the Gulf of Guinea. The Ad hoc Commission, consisting of representatives of Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tomé and Principe and Zaire met in Libreville, Gabon, in May 1984 and agreed on the text of an agreement. A Plenipotentiaries Conference was then held in Libreville and the Convention Concerning the Regional Development of Fisheries in the Gulf of Guinea was signed on 21 June 1984.

88. The objectives of the Convention are: (i) determine a concerted attitude towards the activities of foreign fishing vessels and give priority to the needs of fishing vessels originating from member countries of the Committee; (ii) harmonize the national regulations with a view to having a unified regulation fixing the conditions of fishing and the control of fishing operations in the area covered by the Convention; (iii) favour fishing activities of vessels originating from Member States; (iv) promote the harmonious development and exploitation, putting the emphasis on the diversification of economic activities attached to fisheries, training of fishermen, fisheries research, and the protection of the marine environment; (v) collect the maximum scientific, technical and economic data on fishing operations; and (vi) increase economic earnings with regards to fishing activities.

89. The Convention established the Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea. The area covered by the Convention is the Central and Southern Gulf of Guinea and it covers all fishery resources of the area. The organs of the Committee are the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat. The Secretariat is based in Libreville, Gabon. To support the Committee, the EEC is funding specific projects established in each of the member countries, as well as some sub-regional activities.

INDIAN OCEAN AND INDO-PACIFIC AREA

Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC)

90. The Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (IOFC) held its Ninth Session from 2 to 6 October 1989, in Mahé, Seychelles.

91. The Commission considered the follow-up action during the intersessional period on its recommendations and decisions and commended the work of FAO in its regular and field programmes in assisting the coastal countries in fisheries development and management. It also discussed the progress in the implementation of the Strategy and Programmes of Action adopted by the FAO World Conference on Fisheries Management and Development and noted with satisfaction the many activities which had been undertaken to implement the various Programmes of Action within the Indian Ocean region.

92. The Commission reviewed the reports of the three Sessions of the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal which had been held during the intersessional period and noted the invaluable support of the Bay of Bengal Programme (BOBP). The activities and achievements of the BOBP, in particular, its roles in addressing major issues of development and management of fisheries in the sub-region, assisting member

countries to establish national priorities and promoting and coordinating regional and national fisheries programmes were commended by the Commission.

93. The Commission noted that the Committee for the Development and Management of the Fishery Resources of the Gulfs continued to play its role as an important vehicle for the sharing and exchange of information and experience, in providing guidance to regional programmes. It endorsed the joint management measures taken by the member countries to protect their finfish and shrimp resources including area and seasonal closures, mesh size regulations, licensing provisions and catch quotas. The Commission also noted that the Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIO) which had held two Sessions during the intersessional period had carried out a number of major regional activities mainly through the FAO/UNDP Regional Fisheries Development and Management Project for the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIOP). The Commission recommended that the Committee should continue to collaborate closely with other international organizations in its activities, especially those concerned with the promotion of conservation of fishery resources in the region.

94. The Commission reviewed the reports of the Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna which had held three Sessions during the intersessional period. It noted that despite a dramatic increase in catches in the industrial sector, artisanal tuna fisheries still accounted for a large proportion of the total catch. It felt that there was a need for a careful review of the state of the stocks in view of the possible interactions between the industrial and artisanal fisheries. It further acclaimed the activities of the Indo-Pacific Tuna Development and Management Programme (IPTP) - the technical support unit of the Committee - which had made considerable progress in collecting historical and current data from participating countries, in an effort to continue its task of monitoring the trends in tuna fisheries in the Indian Ocean. The Commission noted that several countries in the region had benefited from the numerous activities of IPTP including the Expert Consultations on Stock Assessment of Tuna Resources in the Indian Ocean, the Workshops and training courses, and the training in data collection organized for major coastal tuna fishing countries. The Commission noted that at its Tenth Session in 1988, the IOFC Tuna Committee had unanimously recommended the setting up of a new tuna management Commission under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution. The report of the Conference for the Adoption of a Draft Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, held in Rome, April 1989 was reviewed. As the Conference had not reached an agreement the Commission recognized that, while consultations on the subject were continuing, the only practical solution was to continue to make use of the IOFC Tuna Committee. In June 1992, the Second Conference for the Adoption of a Draft Agreement held in Rome, Italy, approved the Draft Agreement. The Agreement is currently being finalized for submission to the FAO Conference in 1993 for approval.

95. The Commission discussed the current trends in fishery information systems in the Indian Ocean region. The requirements, problem areas and issues which needed to be dealt with on a priority basis were highlighted. It was stressed that three issues regarding information systems at the sub-regional and regional levels were (i) harmonization of statistics, (ii) establishment of information systems, and (iii) fish marketing information systems. The Commission considered the major shrimp fisheries management and development issues in the region and the measures taken by governments to address effectively these issues. The Commission also discussed (i) the structure and functions of

the IOFC, (ii) coordination of IOFC activities with other international organizations, and (iii) driftnetting.

96. The IOFC Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna held its Eleventh Session in Bangkok, Thailand, from 9 to 12 July 1990. The topics discussed at this Session included follow-up action on major recommendations and decisions of the Tenth Session, review of the state of tuna resources and the need for management measures, large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing in the Indian Ocean, and the long-term institutional arrangements for the management of Indian Ocean Tuna. It adopted a number of recommendations on biological information, stock assessment, tagging and interaction among fisheries in relation to various species of tuna. It also recommended a moratorium on all large-scale pelagic driftnet fishing on the high seas of the Indian Ocean by 30 June 1992.

97. The IOFC Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southwest Indian Ocean held its Sixth Session in Antananarivo, Madagascar, from 12 to 16 November 1990. The topics discussed at this Session included the intersessional activities and follow-up on major recommendations and decisions of the Fifth Session; progress report on Regional and Inter-regional Programmes; review of the FAO National Field Programme in Fisheries (1989-1990); the future support to the development and management of fisheries in the Southwest Indian Ocean; the review of the structure, functions and responsibilities of the Committee; and collaboration with other international organizations concerned with living resources and environment in the region. The Committee recommended that its terms of reference be revised and strengthened.

98. The IOFC Committee for the Development and Management of Fisheries in the Bay of Bengal held its Seventh Session in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 24 to 26 January 1991. The main topics discussed included the follow-up action taken by FAO in regard to the major decisions and recommendations of the Sixth Session of the Committee; the recent developments and important issues in the fisheries of the region; development and management of offshore fisheries; and the current trends in environment and sustainability of fisheries.

99. The IOFC Committee for the Development and Management of the Fishery Resources of the Gulfs held its Seventh Session from 30 November to 4 December 1992, in Teheran, Iran. The major topics discussed at this Session included the fisheries development planning in the Gulfs; review of the shrimp and demersal resources; review of the pelagic resources in the region; fish marketing, imports and exports; fisheries research: follow-up to the intersessional fisheries research study; marine pollution; and regional cooperative research centre. The Committee recommended the establishment of an Ad hoc Group to examine in detail subject areas for collaboration in fisheries research among member countries. The subject areas proposed by the Ad hoc Group included Fisheries Statistics and Regional Data Bases; Management of Large Pelagic Resources; Management of Small Pelagic Resources; Demersal Fisheries Management; Research on Mesopelagic Resources; Shrimp Fisheries Management; Pearl Oyster Fisheries; and Lobster Fisheries. The Committee also recommended the establishment of a collaborative regional programme on pelagic resources, establishment of an information centre in the region on fish marketing imports and exports, and the establishment of a permanent fisheries organization for the cooperation and coordination in fisheries research activities.

Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

100. In April 1989, a Conference was held in Rome to adopt a draft Indian Ocean Tuna Agreement. Although considerable progress was made at the Conference, it was not possible to reach agreement on a final text. The main points on which agreement was not reached related to the legal status of the proposed agreement and, in particular, to the difficulties of accommodating the participation of the European Economic Community both at the negotiating process and as a potential member of the Commission itself. The desirability of such participation had been stressed on a number of occasions, given the transfer of competence in fisheries management matters by the EEC Member States to the EEC itself. A second problem concerned the degree of autonomy that could be accorded to an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission under the rules governing the adoption of agreements under Article XIV of the FAO Constitution.

101. The main obstacles to further progress in the establishment of an Indian Ocean Tuna Commission were overcome during the FAO Conference in 1991. At that session, the Conference adopted amendments to its Constitution to allow for the membership in FAO by regional economic integration organizations and admitted the EEC as a member of FAO.

102. The FAO Conference in November 1991 also looked at the question of the further autonomy that could be granted to Article XIV bodies in response to the recommendations of the Eleventh Session of the Committee for the Management of Indian Ocean Tuna in July 1990 and adopted a series of amendments to the principles and procedures governing conventions and agreements concluded under Article XIV of the Constitution. In June 1992, a Second Conference for the Adoption of the Draft Agreement was held in Rome which approved the Draft Agreement. The Agreement is currently being finalized for submission to the FAO Conference in 1993 for approval.

103. The objectives of IOTC are (i) to promote cooperation among members with a view to ensuring through appropriate management, the conservation and optimum utilization of stocks covered by the Agreement; and (ii) to encourage sustainable development of fisheries based on such stocks. The area of competence of the Commission is the Indian Ocean (FAO Statistical Areas 51 and 57) and adjacent seas, north of the Antarctic convergence. The species covered are listed in Annex 8 of the Agreement. Membership in the Commission is open to Members and Associate Members of FAO that are (i) coastal States or Associate Members situated wholly or partly within the area; (ii) States responsible for the international relations of territories situated wholly or partly within the area covered by the Agreement; (iii) States or Associate Members whose vessels engage in fishing in the area for stocks covered by the Agreement and (iv) regional economic integration organizations of which any State referred to in sub-paragraphs (i), (ii) or (iii) is a member and to which that State has transferred competence over matters covered by the Agreement.

104. The functions and responsibilities of the Commission are inter alia: (a) to keep under review the conditions and trends of the stocks and to gather, analyse and disseminate scientific information, catch and effort statistics and other data relevant to the conservation and management of the stocks and to fisheries based on the stocks covered by the Agreement; (b) to encourage, recommend and coordinate research and development activities in respect of the stocks and fisheries covered by the Agreement, including activities connected with transfer of technology, (c) to adopt conservation and management measures, to ensure the conservation of the stocks and to promote the objective of optimum utilization of the stocks

throughout the area; and (d) to keep under review the economic and social aspects of the fisheries based on the stocks bearing in mind, in particular, the interests of developing coastal States.

105. The Commission may by a two-thirds majority of the Members present and voting, adopt conservation and management measures binding on its Members. Such measures become binding on Members 120 days from the date specified in the notification transmitted by the Commission's Secretary. Within this period, objections may be submitted by any Member who may not therefore be bound by the measures adopted. Any other member may similarly object within a further period of 60 days from the expiry of the 120-day period. If objections to a measure are made by more than one-third of the Members, the others will not be bound by that measure. The Commission may, by a simple majority of Members present and voting, adopt recommendations concerning conservation and management of the stocks. Members must take action, under their national legislation, to make effective the provisions of the Agreement and to implement conservation of management measures which become binding. Statement of the action taken by each Member is transmitted to the Commission.

106. The organs of the Commission (Article XII) are a Permanent Scientific Committee, Sub-Commissions dealing with one or more of the stocks covered by the Agreement and other Committees, Working Parties and subsidiary bodies necessary for the purposes of the Agreement. The Commission will hold annual regular sessions and its autonomous budget is met by Members' contributions.

Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission (IPFC)

107. The Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission (IPFC) held its Twenty-third Session from 14 to 24 May 1990 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. A Symposium on Artificial Reefs (ARS) and Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) as Resource Enhancement and Fisheries Management Tools and the Sixth Session of the IPFC Standing Committee on Resource Research and Development (SCORRAD) were held in conjunction with this Session. The recommendations adopted by the Symposium and endorsed by the Commission included (i) these structures should not be used except in situations where fishing mortality is controlled, (ii) FADs and ARs which shift fishing effort from overfished to underutilized species be considered as long as overall fishing effort is effectively controlled, (iii) the planning, deployment and management of such structures be done with the active participation of the fishing communities, and (iv) their objectives be clearly stated and that their bio-economic and socio-economic effects on the fishery and on coastal zone activities, be thoroughly evaluated.

108. The Commission noted that catches from the Asia and Pacific regions had been relatively stable in the last five years increasing from 26.0 to 28.0 million tons with developing country catches remaining at around 15.0 million tons. As regards inland fisheries, the Commission stressed the importance of improving data in this sub-sector, while the data available for aquaculture revealed that it was one of the most rapidly growing food production activities in the region. The Commission also emphasized the importance of quality control of cultured shrimp since the rejection of consignments by major importing countries continued to be unacceptably high.

109. The report of SCORRAD had focused on management-oriented research, especially on multispecies and multigear fisheries and on the elaboration of a strategy for the

development of such research. The case studies on Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia described the complexity of the fisheries and research problems while the experience in Japan showed that even in the absence of a good knowledge of the resources, management systems could be established, on a community basis, with a policy explicitly aiming at effort control, resource and space allocation as well as equity. SCORRAD had also identified problems affecting research and management systems. These problems stemmed from inadequacies in the institutional framework, research means, research quality, relevance and priorities and regional collaboration. The Commission endorsed the strategy recommended by SCORRAD, as a guideline for development of research in the area which were: (i) research on fisheries management and development policies, (ii) increased and coordinated support from funding agencies, (iii) focus on management-oriented research, (iv) reference to sustainable development of fisheries and integrated coastal management, and (v) focus on coastal fisheries rehabilitation.

110. The IPFC Executive Committee held its Sixty-fifth Session in Bangkok, Thailand from 3 to 6 November 1992. It reviewed the follow-up actions taken on the decisions, recommendations and directives of IPFC at its Twenty-third Session. The Committee noted that the Global Fish Disease Information Exchange and Diagnosis Service System Project (GCP/INT/526/JPN), funded by Japan, had been implemented in June 1991 and that forty-five developing and advanced fish diseases study institutes from 35 countries had agreed to participate.

111. The Executive Committee reviewed the report of the Ad hoc Committee on Structure, Functions and Responsibilities of IPFC (Bangkok, Thailand, December 1990), established by the Commission at its Twenty-third Session, and that its recommendations had been endorsed by CDMSCS at its Seventh Session in 1991. The Executive Committee recommended that (i) the name of the Commission be changed to the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission (APFIC); (ii) the APFIC geographic area of competence not be defined too precisely, in order to remain open to new membership, on the understanding that, in practice, the Commission would focus its activities in the priority areas; (iii) within its broad framework, priority should be given to marine fishery resources in the South China Sea and adjacent waters, and to inland fisheries and aquaculture in mainland Asia; (iv) Brunei Darussalam, People's Republic of China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Papua New Guinea, and the Asian States of the former USSR should be encouraged to join APFIC; and (v) the Special Committee on Management of Indo-Pacific Tuna be disbanded and the tuna stocks in the region be monitored by the CDMSCS. The Executive Committee discussed the draft proposed amendments to the IPFC Agreement, in the light of the above-mentioned recommendations, and decided to submit the amendments to the Basic Texts and Rules of Procedure of IPFC to the Commission for consideration at its Twenty-fourth Session.

112. The Twenty-fourth Session of the Commission will be held in Bangkok, Thailand in November 1993. A Symposium on "Socio-economic Issues in Coastal Fisheries Management" will be held in conjunction with this Session.

Western Indian Ocean Tuna Organization (WIOTO)

113. In November 1989, a Consultative Meeting on Tuna Management and Development Strategies for Western Indian Ocean Coastal States was held in Seychelles. India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and Tanzania attended the meeting. The

meeting concluded that there was a need for further cooperation in tuna fisheries management between coastal States in the region. It also noted that the existing activities were mainly involved with stock assessment and biological research while there were no arrangements for the developing coastal States to maximize the economic benefits they received or could be receiving from the tuna resources in the region. A second Consultative meeting was held in May 1990 during which a draft convention, prepared by Seychelles, was discussed as a working paper. The meeting agreed on the proposed draft Convention which was finalized and agreed upon at its third meeting held in Seychelles in June 1991. The Convention was signed by Comoros, Madagascar, Mozambique and Seychelles and initialled by the delegations of India, Kenya, Maldives and Mauritius. The Convention will enter into force upon receipt of the third instrument of acceptance.

114. The area covered is detailed in Annex II of the Convention and is basically FAO Statistical Area 51 with the exception of the northeastern point is 11°N latitude, 85°E longitude. The membership of the Organization is open to the founding States (Comoros, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania). Any independent coastal State bordering the western Indian Ocean whose territory is situated principally in the western Indian Ocean region may also be admitted by unanimous approval of the parties to the Convention.

115. The species covered by the Convention are the tuna and tuna-like species listed in Annex II. These are yellowfin tuna, skipjack tuna, bigeye tuna, albacore, southern bluefin, longtail, frigate, bullet tuna, kawa kawa, narrow-barred Spanish mackerel, Indo-Pacific king.

116. The main objectives of WIOTO are to "promote cooperation and coordination among its member countries in respect of inter alia: (i) harmonization of policies with respect to fisheries; (ii) relation with distant-water fishing nations; (iii) fisheries surveillance and enforcement...; (iv) fisheries development, in particular, development of fishing capacity of members and fish technology, processing and marketing; and (v) access to exclusive economic zones of members."

117. The structure of the Organization will consist of a Board, a Committee and a Secretariat.

PACIFIC OCEAN

North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES)

118. In December 1990 the representatives of Canada, China, Japan, the United States and the Soviet Union held a meeting in Ottawa, Canada, and signed a draft Convention for a North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES). The Convention will enter into force sixty days after the date on which three of the signatory States have ratified, accepted or approved the Convention.

119. The area covered by the Convention is the temperate and sub-Arctic region of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, especially northward from 30°N latitude. The activities of the Organization may, for scientific reasons, extend farther southward in the North Pacific Ocean. This area coincides with FAO Statistical Area 67 as well as part of Areas 61 and 77. The species covered by the Organization are all living marine resources

within its area of competence. The membership of the Organization is open to the five signatory States and after entry into force to other States subject to objection procedure.

120. The purpose of the Organization is (i) to promote and coordinate marine scientific research in order to advance scientific knowledge of the area concerned and of its living resources, including but not necessarily limited to research with respect to the ocean environment and its interactions with land and atmosphere, its role in and response to global weather and climate change, its flora, fauna and ecosystems, its uses and resources, and impacts upon it from human activities; and (ii) to promote the collection and exchange of information and data related to marine scientific research in the area concerned.

121. The Organization consists of (a) a Governing Council (the "Council"); (b) such permanent or ad hoc scientific groups and committees as the Council may establish from time to time; and (c) a Secretariat. The scientific functions of the Council include: (i) to identify research priorities and problems pertaining to the area concerned, as well as appropriate methods for their solution; (ii) to recommend coordinated research programmes and related activities pertaining to the area concerned, which are undertaken through the national efforts of the participating Contracting Parties; (iii) to promote and facilitate the exchange of scientific data, information and personnel; and (iv) to consider requests to develop scientific advice pertaining to the area concerned. The activities of the Organization is purely scientific and will cover both areas under national jurisdiction and the high seas under its competence. The decisions to implement the purposes of the Organization are taken by the Council either by consensus or by a three-quarters majority of parties present and voting. The Organization is not empowered to recommend regulatory measures.

International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC)

122. The International North Pacific Fisheries Commission (INPFC) held its Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada in November 1987 and its Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting in November 1988 in Tokyo, Japan. The Commission received the reports of the Standing Committee on Biology and Research which reported on certain findings of the Sub-Committee on Salmon. They included studies on distribution and continent of origin of salmonids, information on exchange of scientists, exchanges of statistics, data and samples as well as publications on salmonids. At both meetings, Canada and the United States expressed concern about the interception of salmonids in the high seas by driftnet fisheries for squid and other non-anadromous species. The Commission also received the reports of the Sub-Committee on Non-Anadromous Species which included the findings and recommendations of its two panels on the Bering Sea and Northeast Pacific on nature of the fishery, status of stocks and research activities in those areas.

123. At its Thirty-third Annual Meeting, the Commission decided to discontinue the Ad hoc Committee on Marine Mammals and instructed the Standing Committee on Biology and Research to assume the responsibility for matters concerning marine mammals and marine debris. In 1987, a Sub-Committee on Marine Mammals was established. It reviewed the reports by the Contracting Parties on the incidental catch of marine mammals. The US section urged the Parties to provide strong leadership in the conservation of marine mammals in the INPFC Convention area by developing an effective research programme in the high seas driftnet fisheries. At both meetings, the Commission received reports on research conducted by its three members on fisheries resources within the INPFC Convention area.

124. The Commission held its Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Annual Meetings in November 1989 in Seattle, Washington and in November 1990 in Vancouver, Canada respectively. The Commission received the reports of the Sub-Committee on Salmon concerning the results of 1989 and 1990 research on anadromous salmonids and oceanography in the Convention area. These included the on-going studies on continent of origin and distribution of salmonids in waters south of 46°N, high seas sampling and tagging of salmonids, tag recoveries, scale pattern analysis, salmonid and flying squid distribution, and exchange of statistics, data and sample.

125. The reports of the Sub-Committee on Non-Anadromous Species included the review of the results of commercial fisheries, biology, assessment of stocks, management procedures and field research activities on Bering Sea groundfish and crab by the Bering Sea Panel as well as a review of the results of commercial fisheries and research on groundfish, squid and marine debris in the northeast Pacific by the northeast Pacific panel. In 1989 a Symposium on "Applications of Stock Assessment Techniques to Gadids" was organized by the Commission.

126. The Commission also received reports by the Sub-Committee on Marine Mammals. These included the incidental take of marine mammals in the high seas squid fishery by Japan and the results of marine mammal surveys and incidental take in research driftnets by Canada.

127. The Thirty-eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission was held in Tokyo, Japan in November 1991. The Standing Committee on Research and Biology presented the Commission with the report of its Sub-Committee on Salmon containing the continuation of the on-going studies on high seas sampling and tagging, tag recoveries, scale pattern analysis, salmonid and flying squid distribution and exchanges of statistics, data and samples. The Commissions also received the reports by the Sub-Committees on Non-Anadromous Species and Marine Mammals.

128. It may be noted that a Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean was signed by Canada, Japan, USA and Russian Federation on 11 February 1992 and entered into force on 16 February 1993. The new Commission replaces the INPFC which was dissolved on 21 February 1993.

International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC)

129. The International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) held its Sixty-third Annual Meeting in Vancouver, Canada in January 1987 and its Sixty-fourth Annual Meeting in Seattle, Washington in January 1988. At both these meetings, the Commission reviewed the state of the Pacific halibut fishery, summarized the results of scientific investigations and presented its regulatory proposals. The Commission recommended to the Governments of Canada and the United States a total catch limits of 58.4 to 73.1 million pounds (one pound = 453.6 gm) for 1987 and 65.73 to 77.63 million pounds for 1988. Other regulatory decisions by the Commission included proposed fishing periods for the commercial fishery as well as adopting allocation regulations for various areas covered by the Convention. It also discussed the incidental catch and mortality of halibut which had reached 11.1 million pounds in 1988 and urged Canada and the United States to establish caps on the incidental catch in fisheries lacking them and supported the safeguard of observer programmes on domestic vessels. The scientific studies conducted by the Commission during this period

included: Halibut Rearing Project, Catchability Studies, Bristol Bay Survey, Minimum Size Limits in the Sport Fishery, Catch Sampling, Age Validation Study, Tagging Studies, The Economics of Halibut By-catch Regulation, and Continuous Fishing and Tagging Study in British Columbia.

130. The Commission held its Sixty-fifth Annual Meeting in January 1989 in Vancouver, Canada, and its Sixty-sixth Annual Meeting in January 1990 in Seattle, Washington. At its Sixty-fifth Meeting, the Commission received regulatory proposals for the 1989 halibut fishery from fishermen, vessel owners, processors, government agencies and its own scientific staff. The Commission recommended a total catch limit of 64.65 million pounds for 1989. Other regulatory decisions included proposed fishing periods for the commercial fishery, allocation regulations for various areas covered by the Convention and regulations for the recreational fishery. In November 1989 the Commission also held an Interim Meeting in Seattle, Washington to review fishery and management actions taken during 1989 and proposed a research programme for 1990. Particular attention was given to stock assessment results which indicated a declining halibut resource and the effect of by-catch in the Alaskan ground fisheries on the halibut fishery. The Commission's scientific studies on halibut were: Stock Assessment, By-catch Management, Tagging Studies and Biological Sampling.

131. At its Sixty-sixth Annual Meeting, the Commission reviewed the 1989 Pacific halibut fishery and discussed the results of scientific investigations on halibut. At this meeting the Canadian Commissioners objected to the high by-catch of juvenile Pacific halibut by the U.S. fisheries off Alaska and refused to approve any of the proposed catch limit or fishing period regulations until the U.S. adopted a feasible by-catch reduction plan. The Commission noted that the problem of by-catch must be addressed by each government's fisheries managers and set the catch limits for the 1990 at 58.62 million pounds. Other regulatory decisions included the establishment of fishing periods for the commercial fishery, setting fishing periods and trip limits for various areas covered by the Convention. The scientific studies on halibut conducted by the Commission were Growth and Aging of the Stocks, Tagging Studies, Testing the Gear and Behaviour and Life History.

132. The Commission held its Sixty-seventh Annual Meeting in January 1991 in Vancouver, Canada. The total catch limits for 1991 was set at 55.2 million pounds. Other regulatory measures included fishing periods for all areas covered by the Convention, allocation regulations for the Bering Sea and approval of a research budget to help fund an observer programme for the Canadian trawl fleet. It also approved a resolution reaffirming its commitment to address the by-catch problem. The resolution established a Working Group to study the measures taken by Canada and the United States to reduce halibut by-catch.

Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (I-ATTC)

133. The Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (I-ATTC) held its Forty-sixth Meeting in Panama in May 1987 and its Forty-fifth Meeting in La Jolla, California, in March 1988.

134. At its Forty-fourth Meeting, the Commission did not recommend quotas for 1987, due to special circumstances which resulted in unusually great abundance of yellowfin in the eastern Pacific. The estimated catch of all species in the Eastern Pacific Ocean in 1987 was about 383,000 tons. At its Forty-fifth meeting the Commission recommended a quota of

190,000 short tons for yellowfin tuna, with the option to increase this limit by two increments of 30,000 tons each. This quota was adopted but not implemented.

135. During the period under review, the Commission maintained its field stations in a number of ports in Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and the United States. The work of the scientists and technicians at these stations includes collecting landing statistics and catch and effort data, measuring fish and collecting other biological data. The Commission continued its research programmes on various aspects of Tuna Biology and Oceanography and Tuna Ecology.

136. The tuna-dolphin programme continued during 1987 and 1988. It included data collection, technician training, gear programme and incidental mortality of dolphins. A number of courses on marine mammals were organized by the Commission. The Commission noted that mortality-per-set ratio of dolphins was estimated to be 98,383 in 1987 and 78,927 in 1988.

137. The Commission held its Forty-sixth Meeting in Paris, France, in May 1989 and its Forty-seventh Meeting in Washington, D.C., in June 1990.

138. At these meetings, the Commission recommended a quota of 220,000 short tons for the total catch of yellowfin tuna for 1989 fishing year, with the option to increase this limit by two increments of 30,000 tons each. The total catch quota for 1990 was set at 200,000 short tons for yellowfin tuna with the option to increase this limit by up to five increments of 20,000 tons each. The Commission continued its collection and review of the records on gear, flag and fish carrying capacity for most of the vessels which fish for yellowfin, skipjack and bluefin tuna in the eastern Pacific Ocean as well as its research programmes on Tuna Biology and Oceanography and Tuna Ecology. During 1989 and 1990, the Commission maintained its field stations which collect data on various aspects of tuna fishing.

139. The tuna-dolphin programme continued in 1989 and 1990. The mortality- per-set ratio of dolphins were estimated at 96,979 for 1989 and 52,531 for 1990. In addition to its scientific investigations on dolphins, the Commission, jointly supported by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Services, held a Tuna-Dolphin Workshop in March 1989 in San José, Costa Rica, which was attended by government and industry representatives from nations with fleets which fish for tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the tuna-dolphin controversy and national regulations affecting the fishery for tunas associated with dolphins. In 1990, the Commission organized nine courses for training observers in the collection of data aboard tuna vessels in relation to marine mammals as well as six workshops on reducing dolphin mortality.

140. The Commission held its Forty-eighth Meeting in San José, Costa Rica, in September 1990. This was a special meeting on the tuna-dolphin programme. The I-ATTC staff presented a paper on Considerations for an International Dolphin Conservation and/or Management Program for the Eastern Pacific Ocean, which was discussed by the Contracting Parties and other observers attending the meeting. After a recess, an intergovernmental meeting with participants from all nations with significant involvement in the surface fishery for tropical tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean was convened and a resolution calling for an expanded tuna-dolphin programme, administered by the I-ATTC was passed. This was followed by a technical meeting and an intergovernmental meeting in La Jolla, California in

January 1991. The resolution passed by the Intergovernmental Meeting expressed willingness of governments to reduce dolphin mortality in 1991 to approximately 50 percent of that in 1989 and to increase the coverage of the international fleet by observers to 100 percent.

141. The Commission held its Forty-ninth meeting in June 1991 in Tokyo, Japan. It recommended a total catch of 210,000 short tons for yellowfin tuna for 1991 with the option to increase this limit by up to four increments of 20,000 short tons each. As in the past, the Commission reviewed the status of tuna stocks as well as its research programmes.

142. The tuna-dolphin programme continued in 1991 during which period the Commission organized five training courses and three workshops. The mortality-per-set ratio of dolphins was estimated at 27,292 in 1991.

143. At two I-ATTC meetings in 1992, the nations which participate in the surface fishery for tunas in the eastern Pacific Ocean agreed to an International Dolphin Conservation Programme (IDCP) which will progressively reduce the mortality of dolphins from not more than 19,500 in 1993 to less than 5,000 in 1999.

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

144. On 11 February 1992, the United States, Canada, Japan and Russia signed the Convention for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks in the North Pacific Ocean. The Convention came into force on 16 February 1993. The Convention replaced the U.S.-Canada-Japan International Convention for the High Seas Fisheries of the North Pacific.

145. The area covered by the Convention are the waters of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas, north of 33°N Latitude beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. The species covered by the Convention are listed in the Annex which forms an integral part of the Convention and are: chum salmon, coho salmon, pink salmon, sockeye salmon, chinook salmon, cherry salmon and steelhead trout.

146. The Convention is not open to other States but at the invitation of the Original Parties by unanimous agreement, other States may accede to it. The main objectives of the Convention are to prohibit directed high seas fishing for North Pacific salmon and to strictly limit the incidental taking of Pacific salmon. The Parties may take action individually or collectively to prevent unauthorized fishing activities by others and prevent trafficking in illegally harvested Pacific salmon.

147. Under Article VIII of the Convention, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) is established with its headquarters in Vancouver, Canada. The Commission may establish subordinate bodies if necessary as well as a Secretariat composed of an Executive Director and appropriate staff. Decisions of the Commission on all important matters are taken by consensus among all Parties that are States of origin of anadromous stocks which migrate into the Convention Area. A matter is deemed to be important if any Party that is a State of origin of anadromous stocks which migrate into the Convention Area considers it to be important.

148. The Commission's authority include: (i) to recommend to the Parties measures for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks and ecologically related species in the Convention area;

(ii) to promote the exchange of information on any activities contrary to the provisions of the Convention; (iii) to consider and make proposals to the Parties for the enactment of schedules of equivalent penalties for activities contrary to the provisions of the Convention; (iv) to consider possible means to relieve the damage which are suffered by a State of origin as a result of fishing in violation of the Convention, (v) to review and evaluate enforcement actions taken by the Parties and (vi) to promote the exchange of catch and effort information and provide a forum for cooperation among Parties with respect to anadromous stocks and ecologically related species.

Council of the Eastern Pacific Tuna Fishing Agreement (CEPTFA)

149. The Eastern Pacific Ocean Tuna Fishing Agreement was signed at San José, Costa Rica, on 12 April 1983. The agreement will enter into force after it has been ratified or adhered to by five coastal States bordering the area covered by the agreement. The areas covered by this agreement are Northeast Pacific, Central Eastern Pacific and Southeast Pacific corresponding roughly with FAO Statistical areas 67, 77 and 87 respectively. It should be noted that the seaward limit of CEPTFA area of competence coincides with the yellowfin regulatory area established by Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (I-ATTC).

150. The species covered by the Agreement are: yellowfin tuna, bigeye tuna, albacore tuna, northern bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, skipjack tuna, black skipjack, kawakawa, bullet tuna, frigate tuna, eastern Pacific bonito and Indo-Pacific bonito.

151. Membership of the Council will be open to States bordering the Agreement area or to members of the I-ATTC at the time that the Agreement enters into force. Other States may also adhere to the Agreement subject to the unanimous approval by the Council. The objective of the Agreement is to provide rational exploitation of tuna stocks of the region under an arrangement of equitable access to the fishing areas through a licensing system.

152. The Agreement, when in force, would establish an Eastern Pacific Tuna Organization which would be administered by a Governing Council. The Council would be composed of one representative from each Contracting Party.

Eastern Pacific Tuna Fishing Organization (OAPO)

153. An Agreement to establish the Eastern Pacific Tuna Fishing Organization (OAPO) was signed at Lima, Peru, on 21 July 1989 and will enter into force when four of the States eligible for membership have ratified the Agreement. The area covered by the Agreement is defined as the Eastern Pacific Ocean through which the species covered by the Agreement roam. This area includes, not only the 200-mile zone adjacent to island and continental territories of the Contracting Parties, but also high seas areas adjacent to these zones up to the meridian 145°W longitude. This area coincides with part of FAO Statistical Areas 77, 81, 87 and 74.

154. The species covered by the Agreement are: yellowfin tuna, skipjack, northern bluefin tuna, southern bluefin tuna, albacore and bigeye tuna.

155. Membership of the Organization will be open to Eastern Pacific coastal nations and to other States whose vessels have fished the species covered by the Agreement within the

area. The admission of non-coastal States will be subject to the approval of the Governing Board of the Organization.

156. The main objectives of the Organization are (i) to achieve the conservation, protection and optimum utilization of the highly migratory species and (ii) to provide training, transfer of technology and to assist with development of fishing capacity and infrastructure of disadvantaged Latin American Eastern Pacific Coastal States who are parties to the Agreement. The structure of the Organization will consist of the Governing Board, the Scientific Committee and the Secretariat. The Organization will hold regular annual meetings and the decisions are made either by consensus or by a two-third majority.

South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA)

157. During the period under review, the Fisheries Committee of the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) has held eleven Annual meetings, and eleven Special meetings the last being its Twenty-second Annual Meeting which was held in Niue, in May 1992.

158. The Agency has continued to assist member countries with the development and implementation of management strategies which promote sustainable utilization of off-shore living marine resources at a sustainable level of benefit. The Agency has organized a number of regular meetings including the meetings of the Technical Sub-Committee of FFA, the Regional Fisheries Surveillance, the Regional Register of Fishing Vessels, and the Regional Technical Meeting on Fisheries.

159. In 1988, the five-year Treaty with the United States came into force. Under this, the first multilateral fisheries treaty in the region, United States vessels were permitted access to approved areas of all of the member countries' exclusive economic zones (EEZs). Access fees are divided on the basis of a fixed component to each participating member country with the bulk distributed according to catches from the respective EEZs. In 1993, the Treaty with the United States was extended for a further ten years. One of the most important achievements of the FFA was in the opposition by the member countries along with other territories in the region to pelagic driftnetting. Concern at the impact of the method on the target species, southern albacore tuna, as well as its incidental take of marine mammals, reptiles and birds resulted in the countries and territories agreeing to a treaty under which they would prohibit driftnetting in the zones over which they hold jurisdiction.

160. In their continuing efforts to derive reasonable returns from permitting access to their fisheries resources the member countries agreed to introduce revised minimum terms and conditions of access. Though in some cases perceived as a regional initiative, they are implemented by the countries as part of their bilateral agreements with the various distant water fishing nations. They include reporting requirements, observer carriage and cost recovery and an undertaking by the foreign vessels to cease transshipment on the high seas.

161. In 1992 an Arrangement for the Management of the Western Pacific Purse-Seine Fishery was signed. Under the terms agreed, the Parties to the Nauru Agreement (Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu) will apply a limit to the number of purse-seiners permitted to operate in their EEZs. Finally, the member countries being aware of their limitations in terms of surveillance and enforcement, especially given the enormous expanse of their combined EEZs, have signed a Treaty (the Niue Treaty) under which they will cooperate in the

coordination of their surveillance and enforcement activities. In effect, it will permit a vessel or officers from a neighbouring EEZ to take action in another EEZ.

South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS)

162. The South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS) held its Nineteenth Ordinary Meeting in October 1987, and its Twentieth Ordinary Meeting from 28 August to 1 September 1989 in Bogota, Colombia.

163. At both meetings the activities of the Commission were reviewed and a number of resolutions were adopted. These resolutions provide general guidance as well as specific policies to be implemented by the Commission. In 1989, the meeting approved the structural reorganization of the Commission through the amendments of its By-laws and Regulations including the establishment of a Scientific Secretariat, a Legal Secretariat and an Economic Secretariat. Several resolutions were also adopted including the Draft Regional Protocol for the Protection of the South East Pacific Against Radioactive Pollution, Development of Ocean Mining Activities in the South Pacific System, the CPPS and the Pacific Basin, and Statistics on South East Pacific Fisheries. An International Conference on Fisheries, co-sponsored by the CPPS and OLDEPESCA, was held in Lima, Peru, from 26 September to 1 October 1989 with Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Cook Islands, Solomon Islands, Palau and Western Samoa attending the Conference. The subjects discussed at this Conference included fisheries operations in the Latin American and the South Pacific Nations, Overview of Fisheries, Management Issues, Negotiations with Countries Involved in Offshore and Longline Fishing and the Activities Developed by the Regional Organizations.

164. During the period under review, the Commission has carried out activities concerning the conservation and the utilization of the living resources of the Southeast Pacific which are of interest to its members. Some of these are conducted within the framework of a series of projects and programmes including the Regional Programme on El Niño phenomenon and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/FAO Regional Project on Development of Fisheries in the Southeast Pacific and a project sponsored by FAO/IOC (International Oceanographic Commission) on the Ocean Sciences in relation to Living Resources (OSLRO).

165. The Commission has organized several meetings, seminars and workshops including Technical Consultation on Socio-economic Effects of El Niño Phenomenon in the South East Pacific (October, Ecuador 1988), CPPS/FAO Seminar Workshop for the Standardization of Fisheries Statistics in the Southeast Pacific (Chile, April 1989), CPPS/OLDEPESCA Meeting of the Working Group for Tuna Exploitation (Mexico, April 1988), and the Meeting of Legal Experts on Radioactive Pollution and the First Meeting of the Ad hoc Group of Technical Experts on Radioactive Pollution in the Southeast Pacific (Colombia, March 1989). The Commission, in cooperation with FAO has published three issues of a Bulletin on Fisheries Statistics of the Southeast Pacific and currently preparing the Fourth volume. A monthly Bulletin on Climatic Alert, providing updated information on El Niño Phenomenon, is also being published by the Commission.

Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC)

166. The Pacific Salmon Commission (PSC) held its Third Annual Meeting in February 1988 in Vancouver, Canada, and its Fourth Annual Meeting in Portland, Oregon, in February 1989. It also held consultations with the Panels and Technical Committees. In 1987, the text of the agreements which form the basis of fishery regimes for 1988 between Canada and the United States was adopted and incorporated as amended Annex IV of the Treaty. In 1987 the Commission announced that a five-year agreement on coordinated enhancement and management measures for the transboundary rivers of northern British Columbia and Southern Alaska had been reached by the Parties and embodied in Chapter 1 of Annex IV. In 1988, the Commission reported that the Joint Northern Boundary Technical Committee will undertake a detailed assessment of the status of chum salmon stocks in the Portland Canal area. It further established two Ad hoc Working Groups; the first to develop an overview of the Parties' long-term management plans; and the second to attempt to resolve technical differences in estimates of interception in order to provide a basis for the Commission to begin to address the question of equity.

167. The Commission held its Fifth Annual Meeting in February 1990 in Vancouver, Canada, and its Sixth Annual Meeting in February 1991 in Bellevue, Washington, in 1991. The Commission recommended the texts of agreements to amend Annex IV of the Treaty to establish fishery regimes for 1991 and 1992 seasons and beyond. In 1989, the Commission noted that provisions for fishery regimes on chinook, coho and chum salmon had been successfully negotiated and would apply for both 1991 and 1992. In 1990 provisions for fishery regimes in the Northern Boundary were agreed and would apply for the next four years.

168. The Commission held its Seventh Annual Meeting in February 1992 in Vancouver, Canada. It noted that significant progress had been made on several major issues including discussions aimed at resolving the equity issue, development of long range chinook management approaches, and discussion on coho management. The Commission noted that there existed a disagreement between the Parties regarding the interpretation of catch ceiling provisions for the United States harvest of Fraser River sockeye. A workshop on interception valuation methodologies and a workshop on southern coho stock management were held in 1991.

OTHER AREAS

Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries (OLDEPESCA)

169. Between 1987 and 1993, the Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries (OLDEPESCA) held six Ministerial Conferences, the last being its Ninth Conference held in November 1992 in Panama. The Governing Council of OLDEPESCA also held six meetings during this period. The Conference of Ministers is the supreme authority specifying the direction and the policies of OLDEPESCA through its Declarations and Resolutions. These policies are generally prepared by the Governing Council in relation to the objectives of the Organization and presented, by way of recommendations, to the Ministerial Conferences.

170. During the period under review, the Organization has been actively involved in areas of Research in Fisheries Resources, Exploitation of Fisheries Resources, Aquaculture,

Fisheries Technology, and Fisheries Trade, Training, and Environmental Protection. OLDEPESCA, in cooperation with the South Pacific Permanent Commission (CPPS), was instrumental in the preparation of the Convention for the Conservation, Protection and Optimal Utilization of Tuna Fish in the Eastern Pacific, signed on 21 July 1989. At its Seventh Meeting in 1990, the Conference of Ministers approved a Regional Strategy for Fishing Development, the purpose of which is to seek productive growth compatible with balanced marine and continental ecosystem in which fishing and aquaculture activities can take place. It also adopted a Resolution approving an International Programme for the reduction of capture and incidental mortality of marine species in commercial fishing operations. This Programme is important in relation to the high seas tuna fisheries in the Eastern Pacific. A project on Fisheries Development in Central America and Panama which had started in 1988, was completed in 1990.

171. OLDEPESCA is currently involved in a number of on-going projects including Development of Small-Scale Fisheries in Latin America and Caribbean, Regional Project in Fisheries Management and Planning for Central American countries and Panama, Regional Project on Fishery Management and Planning in Central America and Panama (Phase II), Fisheries Development in the Central American Isthmus, Institutional Strengthening of Inland Fishery and Aquaculture Development in South America, Aquaculture Regional Project, Fisheries Product and Foreign Trade Promotion, and Fisheries Development Programme for Titicaca Lake. The Organization has continued its publications of Aquarius Bolletin, Journal of the Latin American Aquaculture and a series of Fisheries Reports.

172. The November Meetings (1992) of both the Governing Council and the Conference of Ministers were important to the future of OLDEPESCA in relation to its Constitution. Proposals for the reform of the Constitutional Chart as well as criteria for the selection and evaluation of the Executive Director were discussed. The agreement reached at these meetings has not yet been clarified and will be discussed again at the next Annual Meetings.

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)

173. The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) held its Sixth and Seventh Meetings from 26 October to 6 November 1987 and from 24 October to 4 November 1988 in Hobart, Australia.

174. Major topics discussed at these meetings included assessment and avoidance of incidental mortality of Antarctic marine living resources, review of the report of the Scientific Committee, review of existing Conservation Measures, establishment of a system of observation and inspection, compliance with Conservation Measures in force, and development of a conservation strategy for Antarctic marine living resources. The Commission discussed the reports of the Scientific Committee on Krill, Fish Resources, Squid, Ecosystem Monitoring and Management, and Marine Mammals and Bird Populations. It established a Standing Working Group on Fish Stock Assessment in 1987 and a Permanent Working Group on Krill in 1988. At both meetings, the Commission reviewed its existing Conservation Measures and adopted new ones. These included limitation of total catch, catch reporting systems, prohibition of directed fishery on Champsocephalus gunnari in 1987 and established total allowable catches, minimum mesh size and closed seasons for C. gunnari and patagonotothen brevicauda guntheri in 1988. The total catch of krill was reported at 376,456 metric tons in 1986/1987 and 370,663 metric tons in 1987/1988 seasons.

175. The Commission held its Eighth and Ninth Annual Meetings from 6 to 17 November 1989 and from 22 October to 2 November 1990, in Hobart, Australia.

176. The Commission reviewed the Reports of its Scientific Committee, the existing Conservation Measures and current operation of the System of Inspection and discussed the fishing activities of the past two seasons. A system of observation and inspection to verify compliance with measures adopted by the Commission came into force in 1989. The Commission also adopted conservation measures concerning C. gunnari, Patagonotothen brevicauda guntheri, Notothenia givverifrons, Chaenocephalus aceratus, Pseudochaenichthys georgianus and Notothenia squamifrons. The total catch of krill was reported at 394,531 metric tons in 1988/1989 and 374,793 metric tons in 1989/1990 seasons.

177. The Commission held its Tenth and Eleventh Annual Meetings from 21 October to 1 November 1991 and from 26 October to 6 November 1992, in Hobart, Australia.

178. The Commission reviewed the Reports of its Scientific Committee, the existing Conservation Measures and current operation of the System of Inspection. There are currently a total of thirty Conservation Measures in force in the Convention Area which include fishing regulations, data reporting and research requirements, prevention of incidental mortality of seabirds and protection of sites for conducting ecosystem monitoring studies. In 1991, the Commission adopted a precautionary catch limit to the krill fishery in the Southern Atlantic and in 1992 adopted similar measures for the Southern Indian Ocean. The krill fishery is the largest in the Convention Area with a total annual catch of 300 to 400 thousand tons. The CCAMLR Ecosystem Monitoring Program (CEMP), established to obtain information on the status and dynamics of exploited ecosystems through the monitoring of selected krill predators, has now a Data Centre which holds CEMP information collected during the first five years of its operation. In 1992, the information collected was reviewed and the first exercise has demonstrated the potential usefulness of this approach in the formulation of CCAMLR management decisions.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

179. Since 1987, the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has held the following Annual Meetings: 39th Annual Meeting, Bournemouth, UK, June 1987; Fortieth Annual Meeting, Auckland, New Zealand, 30 May to 3 June 1988; Forty-first Annual Meeting, San Diego, California, June 1989; Forty-second Annual Meeting, Noordwijk, Netherlands, July 1990; Forty-third Annual Meeting, Reykjavik, Iceland, May 1991; and Forty-fourth Annual Meeting, Glasgow, Scotland, 3 May to 29 June 1992.

180. During the period under review, the IWC Scientific Committee has embarked on a programme of Comprehensive Assessment of Whale Stocks, defined as an in-depth evaluation of the status of all whale stocks in the light of management objectives and procedures. This includes examination of current stock size, recent population trends, carrying capacity and productivity. So far, detailed assessments have been carried out for minke whale, fin whale, sei whale, gray whale, bowhead whale, humpback whale and pilot whale.

181. The Scientific Committee has examined alternative management regimes for whales, and five possible revised management procedures have been developed. One of these was recommended as a 'core' procedure by the Commission in 1991, and has been further tested and developed for implementation. In 1992 the IWC adopted a Resolution accepting the

specification for the calculation of catch limits in a Revised Management Procedure for baleen whales, the culmination of seven years' work. Before this can be implemented as part of a full Revised Management Scheme, a number of other issues need to be resolved, including the development of minimum data standards, the development of guidelines for conducting surveys and analysing the results, the documentation of the relevant computer programmes, and the development of a fully effective inspection and international observer scheme.

182. Catches of whales by aboriginal peoples for subsistence purposes are not affected by the ban on commercial whaling. Such aboriginal subsistence whaling has continued under IWC regulation for: (i) bowhead whales from the Bering-Chukchi-Beaufort Seas stock by Alaskan Eskimos; (ii) gray whales from the eastern North Pacific stock by the native people of Siberia; (iii) fin and minke whales from the North Atlantic by Greenlanders; and (iv) humpback whales from the North Atlantic by St Vincent and the Grenadines. In addition, member governments of the IWC are allowed to grant permits for the taking of whales for scientific research purposes. Such permits have been given by the Governments of Iceland (1987-89) for 216 fin and 30 sei whales to monitor the status of the whale stocks and to study their role in the marine ecosystem; Japan (1987-92) for 1459 minke whales in the Antarctic to collect bias-free data by statistical sampling, particularly of natural mortality rates; and Norway (1988-92) for 146 minke whales in the northeast Atlantic to provide information on feeding ecology for incorporation into a model for future multi-species management. The results of the investigations based on these research catches have been reported to the IWC Scientific Committee, and some have been utilized in the programme of comprehensive assessment of whale stocks.

183. Throughout the period the IWC has continued to study and initiate activity in a number of fields. These include: humane killing for which a special Workshop was held in 1992 to review present and potential methods of killing whales. The IWC has adopted a Resolution urging its members to continue to promote the development of humane killing methods. In 1979 the IWC designated the Indian Ocean as a whale sanctuary in which commercial whaling is prohibited. It was decided in 1992 that this prohibition will be reviewed by the Commission at its Annual Meeting in 2002. A proposal put forward by France in 1992 for the establishment of a whale sanctuary in the Southern Hemisphere south of 40°S will be considered in the light of further review and consultations in 1993.

184. In 1990 the IWC adopted a Resolution that its Scientific Committee should draw together available information on the status of small cetaceans subject to significant directed and incidental takes. Major reviews have been and continue to be produced, including a Workshop on the mortality of cetaceans in passive fishing nets and traps. These reports have been forwarded to involved governments, the UN and UNCED. Different views are held by member governments on the legal competence of the IWC with respect to small cetaceans. A Working Group has been established to initiate discussions arriving at a framework under which the IWC could address the issue of small cetaceans without prejudice to these different positions.

185. A Working Group on Socio-economic Implications and Small-type Whaling was established in 1989. This has reviewed extensive documentation submitted on the social and economic implications of implementing a zero catch limit, the steps taken, and possible future steps to address resulting problems. It has also given consideration to the situation of various kinds of small-type whaling. In 1990 a Working Group to consider questions related to the

operation of the 1946 Whaling Convention was established. This highlighted the range of views which exist amongst the member governments concerning any possible revision or renegotiation of the Convention. As a result, a Working Group to review the Schedule to the Convention was set up in 1991, which is continuing its work.

II. INLAND FISHERY BODIES

Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL)

186. The Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL) held its Fifth Session in Panama City, Panama, in June 1988.

187. The Commission reviewed the reports of the activities and recommendations of its subsidiary bodies during the intersessional period. The Working Party on Fishery Resources (Sub-Group on Lakes and Reservoirs, Sub-Group on River Fisheries, and Sub-Group on Pollution) held its Fourth Session in Puerto Montt, Chile, in September 1987 and identified a number of problems and made recommendations which were endorsed by the Commission. A project on "Support for Regional Aquaculture Activities in Latin America and the Caribbean" (AQUILA), financed by the Government of Italy had become operational in 1985. The Commission was informed of the restructuring of AQUILA and its future programmes and drew attention to the support that countries were receiving from this Project through its training, research and information activities at both national and regional levels.

188. The Commission noted that following the suggestion made at its previous Session concerning the introduction of aquatic organisms, a bibliography on species introduction in the region had been prepared by the Secretariat. It had published a new edition of the World Register of Introductions of Freshwater Aquatic Organisms (FAO Technical Paper No. 294, 1988) as well as a summary compilation of the regulations on the introduction of exotic species into countries of the region. The Commission also reviewed a document indicating the measures taken by FAO during the intersessional period to implement the specific recommendations of the previous Session. It observed that almost all of the recommendations had been carried out despite the Organization's financial restrictions. A number of recommendations addressed to FAO and the Governments were adopted.

189. The Commission held its Sixth Session in Lima, Peru, from 27 to 31 May 1991. A Mini-Symposium on Rural Aquaculture was held in conjunction with this Session. The Commission received the reports and documents on the measures taken by FAO during the intersessional period on the recommendations of the Fifth Session and pointed out that many of the activities had been carried out within the context of Technical Cooperation Networks in Aquaculture and Artisanal Fisheries sponsored by the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO/RLAC).

190. The Commission reviewed the report of the Third Session of the Working Party on Fisheries Technology, held in Santiago, Chile, in May 1990. The Working Party had discussed the socio-economic aspects of artisanal fishermen and the role of women and youth in fishing communities and had made a number of recommendations which were approved by the Commission. The report, conclusions and recommendations of the Fifth Session of the Working Party on Fishery Resources (Santiago, Chile, September 1990) were reviewed and its recommendations endorsed by the Commission. The Working Party on Aquaculture held its Third Session in San José, Costa Rica, in July 1989. The main topic of discussion

was the question of aquaculture production statistics. The recommendations of the Working Party were approved by the Commission who also established three sub-groups on Rural Aquaculture, Utilization of Reservoirs, and Nutrition/Fish Pathology.

191. At this Session, the Commission adopted a Code of Practice for Introduction of Exotic Species for Aquaculture or Other Practices and recommended that INFOPESCA examine the feasibility of conducting market surveys on aquacultural and inland fishery products. It requested FAO to prepare and circulate as soon as possible a questionnaire on fishery legislation currently in force for inland fisheries and aquaculture. The Commission adopted a number of recommendations addressed to FAO and the Governments.

Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA)

192. The Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA) held its Seventh Session in Accra, Ghana, from 7 to 11 December 1987. A Symposium on The Development and Management of Fisheries in Small Water Bodies was held in conjunction with this Session. The main issues discussed at this Symposium were (i) Potential Importance of Small Water Bodies and Small River Systems; (ii) Means of Information Acquisition for Management and Development; (iii) Development Assistance; and (iv) Management Approaches. The Committee, on the basis of the discussions and the conclusions reached by the Symposium, made a number of recommendations addressed to Governments, FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO).

193. The Committee reviewed the status of development of aquaculture in Africa and the increasing interest shown in most member countries toward both large-scale and small-scale operations and welcomed the steps taken by FAO to initiate with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) funding the first phase of a major project entitled "Integrated Approach to Aquaculture Development in Africa". The Committee discussed the report of the Fourth Session of its Sub-Committee for the Development and Management of the Fisheries of Lake Victoria (Kisumu, Kenya, 6-10 April 1987) and endorsed its recommendations.

194. At this Session, the future role of CIFA subsidiary bodies was reviewed and the Committee unanimously recommended their continuation. It also decided that its Working Party on River and Floodplain Fisheries be revitalized and the Working Party on Stock Assessment be strengthened.

195. The Eighth Session of the Committee was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 21 to 25 October 1990. A Symposium on Post-Harvest Fish Technology was held in conjunction with this Session. The subjects covered by the Symposium were (i) the Kinds and Levels of Post-Harvest Losses in African Inland Fishery; (ii) the Present and Potential Role of Inland Fish in Food Supply and in Income Generation; (iii) Post-Harvest Fish Technology; and (iv) Cooperative Research in Fish Technology in Africa. The Committee, on the basis of the problems identified during the discussions, made several recommendations.

196. The Committee discussed the prospects and trends of African inland fisheries and aquaculture toward the year 2000. The important role which two regional projects, viz the Integrated Aquaculture Programme for Local Community Development (ALCOM) and the Inland Fisheries Planning, Development and Management in Eastern/Central/Southern Africa

(IFIP), played in assisting member countries in aquaculture development and fisheries planning was commended.

197. The intersessional activities of its subsidiary bodies and the Reports of the Sub-Committee on Lake Tanganyika which had held its Fourth (Rome, April 1988) and Fifth (Bujumbura, Burundi, December 1989) Sessions were reviewed and their recommendations were approved. The new terms of reference of the Sub-Committee as adopted at its Fifth Session was also endorsed by the Committee. It also reviewed the report of the Fifth Session of the Sub-Committee for the Development and Management of the Fisheries of Lake Victoria (Mwanza, Tanzania, September 1989) and noted the success of a Workshop on Statistics, which had been organized by the Sub-Committee in Uganda in May 1990. The Committee also considered the reports of the Fourth Session of the CIFA Sub-Committee for the Protection and Development of Fisheries in the Sahelian Zone (Conakry, Guinea, May 1990), and the Third Session of the CIFA Working Party on Pollution and Fisheries (Nairobi, Kenya, October 1989).

198. The Sixth Session of the CIFA Sub-Committee on Lake Victoria was held in Jinja, Uganda, in February 1992. It reviewed the Status of Fisheries of Lake Victoria, Status of the Lake Victoria Environment, Aquaculture in the Lake Basin, and Marketing. The Sub-Committee identified priorities for research and management for Lake Victoria and made a number of recommendations. It may be noted that a Regional Meeting for the Management of Lake Victoria and the creation of a Lake Victoria Fisheries Commission, organized by IFIP, was held in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, in October 1992 and adopted a draft Convention. The Meeting requested continuing assistance from FAO to finalize the draft Convention and to prepare protocols and annexes as appropriate.

European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC)

199. The Fifteenth Session of the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission (EIFAC) was held in Goteborg from 31 May to 7 June 1988. A Symposium on Management Schemes for Inland Fisheries was organized in conjunction with the Session. The topics of discussions at this Symposium were (i) The General Aspects of European Fisheries Management; (ii) Lakes; (iii) Reservoirs; (iv) Linear Systems; and (v) Estuaries. A number of recommendations, based on the scientific data provided by the Symposium, were adopted.

200. The Commission reviewed EIFAC activities in Fishery Biology and Management (Sub-Commission I), Fish Culture and Diseases (Sub-Commission II), and Fish and Polluted Waters (Sub-Commission III). One of the mechanisms by which Sub-Commissions operate is through Working Parties which are under continuous review by the Commission and are formed or dissolved according to the needs of the Programme as defined during each session. In 1988, the Commission reviewed the reports of the Working Parties including those on Crayfish, Eel, Ageing of Fish, Introductions, Stocking, Eel Culture, Crayfish Culture, Prevention and Control of Bird Predation, Fish-Farm Effluents, and Water Quality Criteria for European Freshwater Fish. The Commission made several decisions and adopted a number of directives and recommendations in relation to the works of its Sub-Commissions.

201. The Commission held its Sixteenth Session in Prague, Czechoslovakia, from 15 to 22 May 1990. A Symposium on Production Enhancement in Still-water Pond Fish Culture was held in conjunction with the Session. The topics discussed at this Symposium were (i) Ecological Basis of Fish Production in Still-water Ponds; (ii) Pond Production Enhancement

by Fertilization; (iii) Pond Production Enhancement by Supplementary Feeding; (iv) Technical Aspects of Pond Production Enhancement; and (v) Objectives and Constraints of Production Enhancement in Still-water Pond Fish Culture. A number of recommendations, based on the scientific data provided by the Symposium, were adopted.

202. The Commission discussed the progress achieved in the activities of its Sub-Commissions on Fish Biology and Management, Fish Culture and Diseases, and Fish and Polluted Water since 1988. It also reviewed the reports of the various Working Parties and Working Groups of the Sub-Commissions and their recommendations and made several decisions as well as adopting directives and recommendations in relation to their future activities. It included a recommendation that a survey of legislation in EIFAC countries be made in order to promote an understanding of the legal framework conditioning fisheries management and to provide a basis for other countries to formulate regulations with particular reference to licensing of fish farms and chemical and bacteriological standards of effluent discharges for water supporting fish life. In 1990, Albania joined the Commission and its delegation participated at the Sixteenth Session.

203. The Seventeenth Session of the Commission was held in Lugano, Switzerland, from 19 to 26 May 1992. A Symposium on Sublethal and Chronic Toxic Effects of Pollutants on Freshwater Fish was held in conjunction with this Session. The topics discussed at this Symposium included (i) Morphological and Physiological Effects at Cell and Tissue Levels; (ii) Life Cycle and Population Effects; (iii) Aluminium Toxicity and Acid Waters; and (iv) Population and Community Effects. A number of recommendations, based on the conclusions of the discussions, were adopted.

204. The Commission reviewed the progress and the activities of its Sub-Commissions as well as the reports of their various Working Parties and Working Groups since 1990 and made several decisions and recommendations in relation to their future activities. At this Session, a Working Party on Fish Diseases and a Working Party on Procedures and Techniques for Assessing the Effects of Pollution on Freshwater Fish were established.

205. Following the Commission's recommendation on Survey of Legislation Concerning the Aquatic Environment in EIFAC Countries in 1990, a circular letter was sent by the EIFAC Secretariat to the National Correspondents in May 1991, requesting summaries of the legislation and regulations in relation to this subject. The Commission noted that only nine countries had so far replied to its request. It noted that the Legal Office of FAO had also contacted the National Correspondents in February 1992 and has continued to compile and appraise relevant legal documentation. A preliminary inventory of laws and regulations is being prepared for countries for which relevant documents are available.

206. It may be noted that in view of the identified need to examine its programmes in depth and perhaps to recommend changes to its Constitution, the Eighteenth Session of the Commission will be held at the Headquarters of FAO in Rome in order to benefit fully from the legal and technical advice of the Organization. The Commission, in relation to the Symposium in conjunction with the Eighteenth Session, decided that in order to prepare for the review of the functions and programme of EIFAC, a Consultation should be organized to examine the status and trends in inland fisheries and aquaculture in Europe and management strategies in European inland fisheries and aquaculture for the 21st century.

III. SELECTED INTER-GOVERNMENTAL REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BODIES CONCERNED WITH FISHERIES

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

207. During the period under review, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has continued its activities in fisheries through a number of projects.

208. An ASEAN/UNDP Regional Small-Scale Fisheries Development Project Phase I started in June 1987 for an initial period of two years but was extended to July 1991. The main objectives of this project were (i) to improve the socio-economic conditions of poor coastal fishing communities in ASEAN countries through initiation of small-scale fishing projects, (ii) to provide the necessary training and extension at all appropriate levels in order to facilitate the implementation of small-scale fisheries programmes in the region, (iii) to identify different types of small-scale fisheries activities that are feasible and effective in the region, and (iv) to provide assistance in the formulation of various small-scale fisheries projects in the ASEAN countries as well as identifying possible sources of financial and technical support.

209. A project on "Monitoring, Control and Surveillance of Fisheries in EEZ in ASEAN Countries Phase I", funded by UNDP started in March 1990 for a period of 18 months. The project aimed at strengthening the capabilities of national fisheries administrations concerned with monitoring, control and surveillance in EEZ's as well as the standardization of operational techniques for monitoring, control and surveillance for the fisheries administration in ASEAN region. The project was executed by FAO and ASEAN member countries.

210. The ASEAN Aquaculture Development and Coordinating Programmes funded by European Community (EC) started in 1990 for a five year period. The main objectives of the project are (i) to improve the socio-economic conditions of the rural poor of ASEAN through aquaculture developments, (ii) to improve the productivity and economic viability of ASEAN aquaculture, (iii) to optimize available marine, coastal and inland resources for aquaculture, (iv) to encourage long-term ASEAN regional collaboration in aquaculture research and development, training and extension, and (v) to foster long-term collaboration between EC and ASEAN countries in the development of aquaculture. The project components include a number of ASEAN and EC aquaculture institutions.

211. The ASEAN/Canada Fisheries Post Harvest Technology Project Phase II, funded by Canada, started in 1992 for a five year period. The long-term objective of the project is to improve the economic and social well-being of the population of the ASEAN nations by increasing the production and export of fish thus generating foreign exchange earnings and augmenting the supply of fish for domestic consumption. The immediate aims are (i) to strengthen and up-grade inspection, quality control, processing and product development systems within ASEAN countries, and (ii) to assist in the development and implementation of improved methods and technologies of fish processing, preservation and packing in order to enhance current market opportunities.

212. The ASEAN Fisheries Federation (AFF), established in 1989, was affiliated with ASEAN in 1990. The objectives of the AFF include (i) to serve as an ASEAN body from the private sector to implement and deal with the problems of ASEAN cooperation in the

fisheries industries, (ii) to assist the member governments in implementing programmes to conserve and manage the fisheries resources, (iii) to facilitate the exchange of information and formulate programmes and policies and other aspects relating to the fish and fish based products and marketing, (iv) to develop joint strategies for increasing exploitation and consumption of fish and fisheries products in traditional and new markets, (v) to seek the relaxation or removal of tariff barriers and other obstacles to trade, (vi) to establish the standardization of the quality and grading rules of fish and fish based products so as to facilitate international marketing and to secure better returns for the producers, and (vii) to keep under constant review development relating to supply, demand and prices of fish and fish based products.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

213. During the period under review, the OECD Committee for Fisheries has followed-up major developments and policy changes affecting commercial fisheries and aquaculture in member countries. A "Review of Fisheries in OECD Member Countries" published annually, covers government policy initiative and actions, which have an impact on the management of the fishing industry. It also deals with aquaculture, trends in production from capture fisheries and market-related information on processing and marketing.

214. In 1989, the OECD Committee for Fisheries finalized a study on "Fisheries Issues - Trade and Access to Resources". Two main areas considered were possibilities for further liberalization of trade and problems of access to resources. The study reviewed the most commonly used measures which affect imports and exports of fish and fishery products and provided a country by country overview of trade distorting measures used in OECD member countries. It also included a survey of bilateral fishery agreements to which OECD member countries are partners, the state of the art on the determination of total allowable catches, and member countries' practices with regard to conditions attached to resources under their management jurisdiction.

215. The Committee has for many years emphasized the importance of management of fish resources and the need for effective fisheries management to maximize the benefits from the marine resources. The Committee's activities in this area include a study on over-exploitation of fish resources, focusing on a quantification of the costs of over-exploitation and the appropriate policies to control this problem, and the holding of workshops including a workshop on Individual Quota Management Systems. The Committee hosted an Extended Meeting on Aquaculture in 1988. A number of relevant issues relating to technical aspects of aquaculture, marketing problems, administration and economics were discussed. One of the most important conclusions drawn from the meeting was the need to approach aquaculture from a multi-disciplinary manner.

216. Since pollution affecting commercial fisheries in coastal waters and the coastal areas where fishing is heavily concentrated, has become a major problem, the Committee has focused its activities on the coastal zone by making a substantial contribution to the OECD report "Coastal Zone Management Integrated Policies", published in 1992. The OECD Council adopted in July 1992 a "Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management", which as far as fisheries is concerned recommends that "particular attention should be given to achieving sustainable management and conservation of fishing resources at the local, national and international levels, and that co-ordination of all relevant authorities should be ensured".

Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)

217. During the period under review, the Council of the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center and the Program Committee have held their annual meetings and reviewed the reports of the activities and progress of the SEAFDEC Training Department, Marine Fisheries Research Department and the Aquaculture Department. In 1988, the Program Committee devised a three-year plan (1989-1991) for the three Departments which were approved by the Council at the Twenty-first Meeting in 1988.

218. The Training Department has organized Regional Training Courses for fishery extension officers annually and carried out other activities related to training and research. These included the continuation of the projects on artificial reefs and socio-economics of small-scale fisheries, a Seminar on the Future of Thai Fisheries (1987), a 12 month training course in Marine Fishing, and the five-and-a-half month Training Course in Marine Engineering (1988). The research projects on resource evaluation, artificial reefs, fishing gear survey, and statistics and socio-economic were also continued. The three-year training programmes included the Training Courses in Marine Fishing Technology, Fishing Technology for Commercial Fisheries and Small-scale Fisheries, Marine Engineering, Fishery Extension Services, Fishfinder and Fishing Accessories, Fishery Biology, Fishery Oceanography, Fish Population Dynamics, and Fisheries Dynamics. The three-year research programmes of the Department included Resource Evaluation, Resource Enhancement, Artificial Reefs Approach, Fishing Gear Technology, Fishery Socio-economics Study, and Fishery Statistics.

219. In 1987 and 1988, the Marine Fisheries Research Department continued its research programmes on fish preservation, fish product development and transportation of live aquatic animals as well as research on artificial reefs in Thailand, surveys of traditional fishing gear and methods in the Philippines and the study on fishery resources and marine fishery production in Southeast Asia. In 1988 the Department organized four courses on microbiology of shellfish and sea water, fish retailers, fishery post-harvest technology, and fish processing. The three-year Programmes of the Research Department were Post-harvest Technology (including Processing, Utilization of low market value fish, Surimi and fish jelly products, Investigations on Pelagic Fish, Squid and Cuttlefish, and Quality Assessment of Fish Products), Training Courses (including courses on quality preservation of fish at retail and wholesale markets, fish processing, and packaging), and Special Fellowships.

220. The Aquaculture Department continued its research programmes during 1987 and 1988 including those on broodstock development of milkfish, sea bass, siganid, tilapia and carp, crustacean breeding and larval rearing, improvement of extensive prawn culture, pond culture of sea bass, feed development and fish diseases. It also conducted a study on the Laguna Lake Limnological as well as research on economics of aquaculture systems. The three-year programmes of the Aquaculture Department included detailed research on various aspects of sea bass, grouper (Epinephelus SP.), snapper, mullet, rabbitfish, milkfish, tilapia, catfish, bighead, giant tiger prawn, white shrimp, mussel/oyster and seaweeds. In addition, the Department's training activities for a three-year period included prawn hatchery, hatchery of marine finfishes, culture of natural food organisms; brackishwater pond culture, freshwater aquaculture, fish health management, fish nutrition, aquaculture management, and aquaculture engineering.

221. At its Twenty-third Meeting in December 1990, the Council agreed to establish a fourth Department of SEAFDEC, tentatively entitled "Marine Fishery Resources Development and Management Department". The new Department is based in Malaysia and in 1990 a team of experts were sent to Malaysia to assist in the formulation of its programmes. At its Twenty-fourth Meeting, held in Manila, Philippines, in December 1991, the Council was informed of the proposed three-year plans of activities of the Center for 1992-1994 which are basically the continuation of the programmes approved in 1989.

South Pacific Commission (SPC)

222. The South Pacific Commission (SPC) has continued to provide assistance to member countries in fisheries development which constitutes the Commission's largest single activity. The Commission's fisheries programmes provide projects on inshore and oceanic fisheries, focusing on development of small-scale inshore fisheries through its technical assistance and training and scientific research.

223. The Deep Sea Fisheries Development (DSFD) Project is the Commission's longest running and most successful activity, concentrating on village-level, rural development. It promotes the development and expansion of artisanal fisheries that are at present underutilized and stimulates interest in the exploitation of these resources through the introduction and demonstration of simple, inexpensive fishing gear and techniques. The project develops, evaluates and demonstrates new or alternative fishing techniques that enable artisanal fishermen to improve catches and diversify their activities. To develop offshore fishing capability, the project assists in the development of fish aggregation device (FAD) programmes.

224. The Fish Handling and Processing Project was initiated in 1986 as part of SPC's coastal fisheries programme to improve marine resource utilization in the post-harvest sector. The project aims to increase the utilization of fish and fishery products, and their value to Pacific Island countries, by improving the handling, processing and marketing of marine resources. The Regional Fisheries Training Project established to enhance the transfer of fisheries-related skills and knowledge to Pacific Island nationals, has conducted a comprehensive programme of training courses and workshops both in extension and communication skills for fisheries extension workers as well as in fish handling practices for fishermen and fishing industry. The Fisheries Information Project provides advice on all aspects of tropical fisheries to both regional governments and individuals with fisheries information needs. The Inshore Fisheries Research Project established in 1987 to assist member countries with the design and implementation of resource surveys, programmes for the collection, analysis and interpretation of fishery statistics, and other activities directed towards the acquisition of information necessary for the rational management of national fishery resources.

225. The Tuna and Billfish Assessment Programme (TBAF) carries out scientific research on stocks of tunas and billfish supporting fisheries in the SPC region and on the environmental factors which affect them. Its activities include (i) studies of the population dynamics of ocean species (particularly tunas) and assessment of interaction between fisheries, (ii) assessment and monitoring of the levels of exploitation of stocks of commercially important tuna and billfish species through regular reviews of fisheries data, (iii) studies on the biology and ecology of commercially important tuna, billfish and bait species and (iv) provision of fisheries observers on foreign flag vessels, including vessels

targeted on albacore. Two distinct projects are defined within the TBAP: the Tuna and Billfish Research Project and the Fisheries Statistics Project. The Regional Tuna Tagging Project (RTTP) is a field programme in support of the TBAP's research on tropical tunas and cooler water albacore. A large-scale tagging programme was completed in 1992.

226. The Albacore Research Project (ARP) was set up to provide an assessment of the South Pacific albacore stock, in the light of increasing pressure on South Pacific albacore. Major activities include; (i) observer programmes on board commercial vessels, (ii) port sampling, (iii) production of age and growth estimates, (iv) improved collection of catch and effort data, and (v) stock assessment and analysis. The Women-in-Fisheries Project aims to assist women to participate more effectively in and benefit from fisheries activities in the region, particularly in the post-harvest fisheries sector.

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

227. The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has held three meetings on Fisheries Management and Development since 1987. A number of issues concerning fisheries development in the OECS were discussed and recommendations, which form the basis of national and regional fisheries programmes, were submitted to the Plenary Sessions of the Ministers Responsible for Fisheries of OECS Member States for their approval. In 1989, the OECS started three projects, funded by the Canadian International Centre for Ocean Development (ICOD), on (i) regional monitoring, control, and surveillance system to control foreign fishing in the waters of the OECS States, (ii) marketing, and (iii) on training.

228. Following the Third OECS/FAO Fisheries Legislation Harmonization Workshop in 1984, the OECS Authority established a Task Force on Access Agreement at its Tenth Meeting in November 1986. The Task Force was instructed to provide guidelines for a coordinated approach to the grant of foreign licences and, with assistance from FAO, visited OECS Member States in May 1987. The Task Force made several recommendations concerning demersal and pelagic resources in relation to the access agreements.

229. The OECS Authority have taken a number of decisions on harmonized fisheries management and development, for the establishment of a coordinated regime regarding access to OECS fishery resources, and for establishment of common fishing zones. At the wider regional level, discussions have been advanced for the establishment of a regime for preferential fisheries access among CARICOM Member States, and at global level, agreement has been reached on a world-wide scheme for the marking of fishing vessels. In February 1991, an Agreement establishing Common Fisheries Surveillance Zones was signed by OECS Member States. In the same year, the OECS Fisheries Desk decided to review the operation of the harmonized fisheries legislation, to assess its effectiveness and to see what further action may be required to promote fisheries management and development in the OECS member countries. The OECS/FAO Mission on the Implementation of the Harmonized Fisheries Legislation in the OECS Region was organized in July/August 1991 with funding from the FAO Fisheries Management and Law Advisory Programme to undertake this review. The Mission visited all OECS member countries with the exception of the British Virgin Islands and discussed the Status of Implementation of Harmonized Legislation and made a number of recommendations.

230. In March/April 1992, the OECS organized a Workshop to review the report of the Mission conducted in 1991 and other documents prepared by the Secretariat. The Workshop, at which FAO was a participant, discussed a number of issues including a review of OECS experience in the development and implementation of harmonized fisheries legislation, regional cooperation mechanisms; control over local fishing activities; conservation and regulatory measures; administration and management of foreign fishing activities; enforcement provisions, and a review of a draft legislation amendments. It proposed a series of recommendations for the strengthening of the harmonized fisheries legislation among OECS member countries.

231. At its Third Meeting on Fisheries Management and Development held in July 1992, the OECS Fisheries Officials discussed a number of issues including the status of OECS Coordinated Fisheries Management and Development Programme; review of National Fisheries Development and Management Programme in Member States; OECS Fish Production; Marketing and Processing Strategy for OECS Fishing Industry; the OECS Small Fisheries Projects Funding Programmes; OECS Fisheries Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme; Training and Institutional Enhancement Programme; Fisheries Aggregation Devices Management and Development; Aquaculture; and OECS Common Fisheries Zones Progress of Implementation. The meeting proposed a number of recommendations to the Third Ministerial Meeting on the Fisheries Management and Development for its approval.

Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fish Products in the Asia/Pacific Region (INFOFISH)

232. INFOFISH is now in its sixth year as an intergovernmental organization serving the fishery industry of the Asia-Pacific region from its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Originally established in 1981 as an FAO regional project, INFOFISH has, since 1987, been funded by its member countries and revenue from sales and services. Close cooperation continues with FAO in technical training activities and in data exchange with the worldwide fish marketing information network. In 1992 an information service in fishing technology was launched in collaboration with FAO.

233. Over the years INFOFISH has seen increasing acceptance of its expertise and role, both within the region and in industrialized countries through regular meetings and consultations with industry in member nations and participation in international events. Its broad range of practical services includes dissemination of information through regular publication such as INFOFISH Trade News and INFOFISH International, advisory services on marketing and technical matters, training activities and consultancy work. Buyers and sellers of fishery products are brought together via computerized registers. Two major international conferences, Tuna 91 Bali, Indonesia, and Shrimp 92 Hong Kong were organized by INFOFISH during the review period. While providing useful and up to date information, these INFOFISH events also offered opportunities for traders to meet, exchange ideas and conduct business.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)

234. The Third APEC Fisheries Working Group meeting was held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 10 to 12 February 1993.

235. The Working Group reviewed the progress made in the Fisheries Work Programme it had set up at its first meeting in 1991. As regards the identification of fish stocks fisheries management arrangements, the meeting considered a draft document on stocks requiring international cooperation in management. Members were requested to submit proposed changes, details on geographical areas and the type of fisheries management problems. Members were also requested to provide comments and recommendations on possible roles which APEC could play with respect to fisheries management arrangements as well as other areas for cooperation with countries and organizations.

236. The meeting also reviewed the results of a survey on the transfer of harvesting and post harvesting technologies and considered proposals concerning health and quality rules for fishery products in order to promote trade by improving understanding on health and quality standards within the region. The meeting also examined draft proposals on the feasibility of improving the flow of information on trade in sea food products. The meeting stressed the need to ensure the Working Group complemented and did not duplicate activities of other working groups as well as those of other international and regional organizations.

237. APEC is also considering a project proposal on red tide/toxic algae to determine the requirements for human resource development, technical and information exchange to improve APEC members' capacity to manage the effects of harmful algal blooms.

Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC)

238. In 1983, PECC established a Task Force for Fisheries Development and Cooperation. Its area of competence covers the waters of the Pacific region and deals with all species but with particular emphasis on tuna. Its main purposes are the exchange and coordination views among experts from governments, academic institutions and industries of the region and the formulation of recommendations concerning Pacific fisheries management and development, and cooperation in fisheries.

239. The PECC Task Force has been funded by CIDA since its establishment and recently received support from CIDA under the Asia-Pacific Ocean Cooperation (APOC) project for five more years (1992/96). It has played a significant role in establishing the Western Pacific Fisheries Consultative Committee (WPFCC) and the Trans-Pacific Fisheries Consultative Committee (TPFCC).

240. The WPFCC was formally established in 1988. Its activities during 1989-92 include a Tuna Research Workshop held in Manila, Philippines in April 1989, a ASEAN-Pacific Island Nations Technical Workshop on Fisheries Education and Training in Noumea, Solomon Islands in April 1992. WPFCC also cooperated with the South Pacific Commission (SPC) Regional Tuna Tagging Programme in Philippines and Indonesia, organized a study tour of the Pacific Island Nations fisheries officers to visit ASEAN fishery institutions and provided support for the participation of Asian and Pacific Island nations and scientists at some technical meetings. While WPFCC itself is not involved directly with resource management activities, it is engaged in exchange of information between the ASEAN region and the Pacific Island Nations.

241. The TPFCC was established at the first meeting of the Pacific Latin American Pacific Island Nations Fisheries Consultative Committee held in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in July 1990. The Committee is a non-government body with a flexible and informal

structure which groups the Latin American countries of the Eastern Pacific with the Pacific Island nations. Its major objective is the promotion of cooperation in fisheries among the eastern and western regions of the Pacific Basin. The Committee is sponsored on the Latin America's by the Permanent South Pacific Commission (CPPS) and the Latin American Fisheries Development Organization (OLDEPESCA) while the South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) and the South Pacific Commission (SPC) act as co-sponsors on behalf of the Pacific Island nations.

242. In April 1991, TPFCC organized a study tour on fishery post-harvest technology for Pacific Island nations officers to Mexico, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.

SUMMARY INFORMATION ON FISHERY BODIES*

ANNEX

Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
CARPAS Regional fisheries Advisory Commission for the Southwest Atlantic	1961 Resolution of FAO Conference (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay	Southwest Atlantic and inland waters of member countries	To develop organized approach among members for the management and regional exploitation of marine and inland fishery resources; to encourage training and cooperative investigations
CCAMLR Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources	1980 International Convention	Hobart (Australia)	Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, EEC, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep.of), New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA.	Antarctic Ocean	To ensure that all harvesting and research activities are conducted in accordance with the objectives of the Convention; to formulate, adopt and revise conservation measures; to compile, analyze and disseminate information on the status of resources and to facilitate research activities.
CECAF Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic	1967 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-2 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Benin, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, EEC, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Romania, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Spain, Togo, USA, Zaire.	Eastern Central Atlantic between Cape Spartel and the Congo River	To promote programmes of development for the rational utilization of fishery resources; to assist in establishing basis for regulatory measures; to encourage training.
CIFA Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa	1971 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-2 of FAO Constitution	Rome (Italy), Secretary located in Accra (Ghana)	Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia, Zimbabwe	Inland waters of Africa	To promote programmes of research for the rational utilization of inland fishery resources; to assist in establishing scientific basis for regulatory measures; to assist in the development of fish culture; to encourage education and training.

* Bodies in operation at the time of preparation of the document in February 1993

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Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
COPESCAL Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America	1976 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela.	Inland waters of Latin America	To promote research for the rational utilization of inland fishery resources; to assist in establishing scientific basis for regulatory measures; to assist in the development of aquaculture; to encourage education and training.
COREP Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea (Comité régional des pêches du Golfe de Guinée)	1984 International Convention	Libreville, Gabon	Congo, Gabon, Sao Tomé et Principe, Zaire.	Central and southern Gulf of Guinea	Coordination, harmonization of policies on development and exploitation of shared stocks found within EEZ of Member States.
CSRP Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries (Commission sous-régional des pêches du Golfe de Guinée)	1985 International Convention	Dakar, Senegal	Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Senegal.	N.W. Africa (Mauritania to Guinea including Cape Verde)	To facilitate harmonization of policies concerning the preservation, conservation and exploitation of fisheries resources, cooperation among the countries with a view to deriving maximum benefit from the resources for their populations.
CTMFM Joint Technical Commission for the Argentina/Uruguay Maritime Front	1974 International Agreement	Montevideo (Uruguay)	Argentina, Uruguay	South Atlantic	To adopt and coordinate plans and measures relevant to conservation, preservation and the rational exploitation of living resources and the protection of the maritime environment in the common fishing zone.

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Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
EIFAC European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission	1957 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czeck and Slovak Federal Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, UK.	Inland waters of Europe	To assist in the collection of information, to promote cooperation among governmental organizations; to advise on the development of inland fisheries.
GFCM General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean	1949 International Agreement under aegis of FAO (Article XIV of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Albania, Algeria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Romania, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey.	Mediterranean, Black Sea and connecting waters	To promote the development, conservation and management of living marine resources; to formulate and recommend conservation measures; to encourage training cooperative projects.
Mixed Commission for Black Sea Fisheries	1959 International Convention	Constanza (Romania)	Bulgaria, Romania, Russian Federation	Black Sea	To take actions for the regulation and rational exploitation of the living resources, to carry out scientific studies on oceanography, fishing technology and aquaculture.

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Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
I-ATTC Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission	1949 International Convention	La Jolla, California (USA)	Costa Rica, France, Japan, Nicaragua, Panama, USA, Vanuatu, Venezuela	Eastern Pacific Ocean	To gather and interpret information on tuna; to conduct scientific investigation; to recommend proposals for joint action for conservation.
IBSFC International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission	1973 International Convention	Warsaw (Poland)	EEC, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania Poland, Russian Federation, Sweden	Baltic Sea and the Belts	To keep the fisheries under review; to coordinate scientific research; to recommend regulatory measures including catch quotas and enforcement schemes
ICCAT International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	1966 International Convention	Madrid (Spain)	Angola, Benin, Brazil, Cape Verde, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, France, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Morocco, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Spain, USA, Uruguay, Venezuela	Atlantic Ocean including the adjacent seas	To study the population of tuna and tuna-like fishes; to make recommendations designed to maintain these populations at levels permitting maximum sustainable catch.
ICES International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	1902 International Convention	Copenhagen (Denmark)	Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA	Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas with particular reference to the North Atlantic	To promote and encourage research and investigation on the seas, particularly those related to the living resources thereof; to draw up programmes required for this purpose; to publish or otherwise disseminate the result of research and investigation.
ICSEAF International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries	1969 International Convention	Madrid (Spain)	Angola, Bulgaria, Cuba, France, Germany, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain	Southeast Atlantic south of the Congo River and north of parallel 50°S	To carry out studies and research; to make recommendations for joint action through closed areas and seasons, size limitations, gear control, total catch limit and other measures.

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Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
INPFC[1] International North Pacific Fisheries Commission	1952 International Convention	Vancouver (Canada)	Canada, Japan, USA	North Pacific Ocean	To provide for scientific studies regarding anadromous species; to provide a forum for cooperation with respect to the study relating to stocks of non-anadromous species.
IOFC Indian Ocean Fishery Commission	1967 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Comoros, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Rep. of), Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of) Kuwait, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Myanmar, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Portugal, Qatar, Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of), Seychelles, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, UK, USA, Viet Nam.	Indian Ocean and adjacent seas (excluding the Antarctic area)	To promote programmes for fishery development and conservation; to promote research and development activities; to examine management problems with particular reference to offshore resources.
IPFC Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission	1948 International Agreement under aegis of FAO (Article XIV of FAO Constitution)	Bangkok (Thailand)	Australia, Bangladesh, Democratic Kampuchea, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, UK, USA, Viet Nam.	Indo-Pacific area (including inland waters)	To keep fishery resources under review; to formulate and recommend conservation and management measures; to keep under review the economic and social aspects of fishing; to encourage training and research.
IPHC International Pacific Halibut Commission	1953 International Convention	Seattle, Washington (USA)	Canada, USA	North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea	To coordinate scientific studies relating to the halibut fishery; to formulate regulations designed to develop the stocks of halibut to those levels which will permit optimum yield.

[1] INPFC was dissolved on 21 February 1993. A new Convention establishing the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) came into force on 16 February 1993.

SUMMARY INFORMATION ON FISHERY BODIES

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Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
IWC International Whaling Commission	1946 International Convention	Cambridge (UK)	Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Korea (Rep. of), Mexico, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Peru, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA, Venezuela	All waters in which whaling is carried out and land stations	To encourage or organize studies relating to whales; to collect and analyze information; to adopt regulations with respect to the conservation and utilization of whale resources.
NAFO Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization	1978 International Convention	Dartmouth, Nova Scotia (Canada)	Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, Denmark, (for Faroe Islands and Greenland), EEC, Estonia, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation.	Northwest Atlantic Ocean	To contribute to the optimum utilization and rational management and conservation of the fishery resources.
NAMMCO North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission	1992 International Convention	Tromso, Norway	Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland, Norway	North Atlantic	To provide a forum for the study, analysis and exchange of information among the Parties on matters concerning marine mammals in the North Atlantic; to establish appropriate Management Committees and coordinate their activities; to establish guidelines and objectives for the work of the Management Committees; to establish working arrangements with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and other appropriate organizations; and to coordinate requests for scientific advice.
NASCO North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization	1982 International Convention	Edinburgh (UK)	Canada, Denmark (for Faroe Islands and Greenland), EEC, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, USA	Atlantic Ocean north of 36°N latitude	To promote the acquisition analysis and dissemination of scientific information pertaining to salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean; to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international cooperation.

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Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
NEAFC North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission	1980 International Convention	London (UK)	Bulgaria, Denmark (for Faroe Islands and Greenland), EEC, Iceland, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation.	Northeast Atlantic Ocean	To provide a forum for consultation and exchange of information on the state of fisheries resources in the Northeast Atlantic, and on related management policies to ensure the conservation and optimum utilization of such resources; and to recommend conservation measures in waters outside national jurisdiction.
NPAFC North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission	1993 International Convention	Vancouver, Canada	Canada, Japan, Russian Federation, USA	North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas north of 33°N	To recommend to the Parties measures for the Conservation of Anadromous Stocks and ecologically related species in the Convention area; to promote the exchange of information on any activities contrary to the provisions of the Convention; to consider and make proposals to the Parties for the enactment of schedules of equivalent penalties for activities contrary to the provisions of the Convention; and to review and evaluate enforcement actions taken by the Parties.
OLDEPESCA Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries	1984 International Convention	Lima (Peru)	Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela.	Oceans bordering Latin America	To provide adequately for the food needs of Latin America and Caribbean, using the potential of fishery resources for the benefit of the people in the region.
PSC Pacific Salmon Commission	1985 International Convention	Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada)	Canada, USA	Northwest Pacific	To prevent overfishing and provide for optimum production and to provide for each country to receive benefits equivalent to the production of salmon originating in its waters.
SPFFA South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency	1979 International	Honiara (Solomon Islands)	Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Western Samoa.	South Pacific (Central and West)	To harmonize fishery management policies; to facilitate cooperation in surveillance and enforcement, processing, marketing and relations with third countries; to arrange for reciprocal access by member countries to their respective 200-mile zones.

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Body	Establishment	Headquarters	Membership	Area of competence	Main functions
SPPC (CPPS) South Pacific Permanent Commission	1952 International Convention	Santiago, Chile	Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru.	South Pacific (East)	To carry out studies and adopt resolutions with a view to the conservation and improved use of resources; to standardize the regulations governing fishing.
WECAFC Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission	1973 Resolution of FAO Council (under Article VI-1 of FAO Constitution)	Rome (Italy)	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Dominica, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Japan, Korea (Rep. of), Mexico, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Christopher and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, UK, USA, Venezuela.	Western Central Atlantic Ocean	To facilitate the coordination of research; to encourage education and training; to assist Member Governments in establishing rational policies, to promote the rational management of resources that are of interest for two or more countries.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARPAS	Regional Fisheries Advisory Commission for the Southwest Atlantic
CCAMLR	Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Living Resources
CECAF	Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic
CEPTFA	Council of the Eastern Pacific Tuna Fishing Agreement
CIFA	Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa
COPESCAL	Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America
CORPE	Regional Fisheries Committee for the Gulf of Guinea (Comité régional des pêches du Golfe de Guinée)
CPPS	South Pacific Permanent Commission
CSRP	Sub-Regional Commission on Fisheries (Commission sous-régionale des pêches)
CTMFM	Joint Technical Commission for the Argentina/Uruguay Maritime Front
EIFAC	European Inland Fisheries Advisory Commission
FFA	South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency
GFCM	General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean
I-ATTC	Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission
IBSFC	International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICSEAF	International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries
INFOFISH	Marketing Information and Advisory Services for Fish Products in the Asia/Pacific Region
INPFC	International North Pacific Fisheries Commission
IOFC	Indian Ocean Fishery Commission
IOTC	Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
IPFC	Indo-Pacific Fishery Commission
IPHC	International Pacific Halibut Commission
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MCBSF	Mixed Commission for Black Sea Fisheries
	Ministerial Conference on Fisheries Cooperation Among African States Bordering the Atlantic
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization
NAMMCO	North Atlantic Marine Mammals Commission
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NEAFC	North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
NPAFC	North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission
OAPO	Eastern Pacific Tuna Fishing Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OLDEPESCA	Latin American Organization for the Development of Fisheries
PECC	Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference
PICES	North Pacific Marine Science Organization
PSC	Pacific Salmon Commission
SEAFDEC	Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center
SPC	South Pacific Commission
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WIOTO	Western Indian Ocean Tuna Organization